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F. E. 8046

Japan

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F 1819

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Registry Number } F 1819/205/23.

FROM Sir C. Eliot.
Tokio.
No. 196.

Dated 8th April 1922.

Received 22nd May 1922.

F: Japan.

Conditions in Korea.

Transmits copy of despatch No. 22 of 1st April from His Majesty's Consul General at Seoul enclosing a report on conditions in Korea during March.

Last Paper.

F1477

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

Of little interest. The bulk of Koreans have decided to abandon agitation; but their feelings of patriotism have undergone no change, and they live in hope that some day Japan may be in trouble, and that they will then get their opportunity to regain independence.

F. Aston-Gronowski
25/5/22

J T Newton
26/5/22

(Action completed.)
R.J. 27/5/22

(Index.)
E.M.

Next Paper.

F. 1944

272218.—Wt. 8485/160—22M.—6/20.—W. & S. Ltd.—(90).

COPY.

41

British Consulate-General,

SEOUL.

April 1, 1922.

No. 22.

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose my report on conditions in Corea during March last,

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient,

humble Servant,

(signed) Arthur Hyde Lay.

His Excellency
The Right Honourable
Sir Charles N. E. Eliot, K.C.M.G., C.B.,
etc., etc., etc.,
T O K I O .

Conditions in Corea during March, 1922.

Anniversary of outbreak of Independence agitation.

March 1st, the third anniversary of the outbreak of the independence movement passed off without any outward sign of unrest. It is significant, however, that the police authorities judged it necessary to take every precaution against the occurrence of any untoward incident. This shows that they are well aware, notwithstanding official declarations of Corean contentment, that quiet can even now only be secured by strict police control.

Commenting on the quietness which prevailed on the 1st, an American missionary, who has spent the greater part of his life in Corea, said to me that while the bulk of the Coreans have decided to abandon agitation in the meantime, their feelings of patriotism have undergone no change, and they are living in the hope that at some future time Japan may be in trouble and so give them an opportunity to regain their independence. At the same time Corean agitators are still busy and a Corean friend of his a day or two ago received a demand for money for the Provisional Government in Shanghai posted by another Corean in Seoul. And it was again considered necessary to suppress the "Dong-a-Ilpo" on the 4th instant for the publication of matter considered prejudicial to the public peace.

A member of the Australian Presbyterian Mission stationed at Pyeng-yang informed me that everything was quiet there.

Some instances of conflicts between the police and Corean law-breakers are reported from the North.

Fight between police and armed malcontents.

About the middle of March a body of police fell in with a party of armed malcontents near Nam-myon, Chosan, North Heian Province, and in the ensuing fight, which lasted for six hours, the leader of the insurgents, Choi Chun Hang, and eight of his followers were killed, and eight pistols, one

rifle

rifle and other articles were captured. In the encounter two Japanese policemen were seriously wounded.

Another affray took place in the same Province, a party of Corean raiders from beyond the Yalu on their way to pillage Posong, Chungkangjin, being met by police and dispersed, a rifle, pistols, etc. being seized.

Corean petitions for suffrage and self-government.

A petition signed by ten thousand Coreans, praying for the early enforcement of the parliamentary election law in Corea is stated to have been presented to the Premier of Japan on March 6th and Coreans have gone to Tokio with written petitions for self-government addressed to the Throne, the two Houses of Parliament, the Privy Council and the Premier. It was mentioned in the newspapers in Japan that Mr. Kim, President of the National Association was the leader in the presentation on the 6th instant, but that is incorrect as I am told by someone who saw him at Seoul Station he only left for the capital on March 11th. In view of the murder of his predecessor his movements are being kept as secret as possible and the police are watching him and all possible care against violence on the part of their fellow-countrymen is also being taken on behalf of the other Corean petitioners. The agitation for election rights and self-government is confined to a small band of pro-Japanese Coreans and is approved, if not actually instigated by the authorities of the Government-General, it being their wish to make it appear as if the people were not averse to some connection with Japan. I am informed on good authority that Corean friends of the Japanese proceeding to Tokio are actually instructed to broach the subject to as many as they can of those they meet there. Requests, however, for any alteration in existing political relations emanating from unauthorised quarters, that is from the vast majority of the Coreans, would be very sharply dealt with, as their only idea of

self-

self-government is complete independence. Nevertheless the numbers of those who realise that they are not yet ready to govern the country themselves and that it is only by education that they can ever hope to be fit for the task is growing. Such men are therefore content that the administration should remain as it is for the present.

Rare occurrence of marriage between Japanese and Coreans.

The "Keijo Nippo" of March 29th states that the number of marriages which had taken place between Japanese and Coreans in Keiki Province amounted at the end of 1921 to 33, in which eleven of the husbands were Japanese and twenty-two Coreans. The Metropolitan Province has a Japanese population of 90,870 souls, much larger than that of any other province and more than a quarter of the whole Japanese population of Corea. The Corean population is 1,689,315. Inter-marriage is, therefore, barely existent.

International Luncheon Club in Seoul.

As a further means of promoting friendly intercourse between Japanese and resident foreigners a Luncheon Club /has been instituted in Seoul under the auspices of the International Friendly Association. Meetings are to be held from time to time to hear short lectures in English immediately after the members have partaken of a simple luncheon together. In the constitution of the Club the object is set forth to be "To cultivate friendly relations "among the members, to assist the cause of peace and to "promote the international spirit, especially by arranging "for prominent visitors and local speakers to address the "Club on topics of non-partisan current interest". The opening session was held on March 17th, when eighty-four ladies and men, Japanese, Corean and foreign, attended to hear an address by Mademoiselle Bidgrain, delegate from France to the Women's Students Conference in China. The foreigners present were almost if not quite exclusively missionaries, but that is the class the Japanese wish particularly to cultivate owing to their influence with the Coreans. A second meeting, also largely attended, took place on March

27th

27th and was addressed by Dr. H. Hodgkin, of London, Delegate to the Conference of the World's Christian Student Federation in Peking. These gatherings are of interest because of their undoubtedly beneficial effect in bringing Japanese and foreign missionaries together.

Federal Council of Protestant Missions.

Figures are given in the March number of "The Korea Mission Field" showing the strength of the Federal Council of Protestant Missions in the peninsula, one of the functions of which is to approach the Government-General on matters of importance to missionaries and their converts. This association comprises the Australian Presbyterian Mission, the Canadian Presbyterian Mission, the American Presbyterian Missions (North and South) and the American Methodist Episcopal Missions (North and South). The total number of missionaries including wives, is 472, who are assisted by 1,683 Corean workers including 300 ordained pastors. They have under their care about 8,000 churches, with nearly 92,000 baptised adults and over 36,000 catechumens preparing for baptism, and there are over 240,000 adherents associated with these churches.

Strike at spinning mill.

There has been a strike of workmen at the Chosen Spinning Mill, Fusanchin, brought about by Coreans returning from Japan with tales of higher pay there. The employees in the above establishment number 230 males and 382 females, with pay ranging from 40 sen to Yen 1.70 and 25 sen to 60 sen respectively per day. The employers are adopting a strong attitude and have dismissed the ringleaders.

Hunger strike at private School.

An incident illustrative of the zeal of the rising generation for education as well as of their insubordination has occurred at Chodong Private School, Milyang, North Keisho Province. This institution founded some three years ago by a few of the leading men in the neighbourhood was about to be closed owing to lack of funds and the

indifference

indifference of the parents of the pupils and of the patrons. Thereupon the students, over two hundred in number, declared a hunger strike, remained in their class-rooms and refused to go home till their parents came and discussed the future of the School. The local authorities allowed this to go on for three days when the boys were induced to return to their homes. The strike had the result it was meant to attain and means are being devised for the continuation of the establishment.

British Consulate-General,

SEOUL.

March 31, 1922.

8

1922

F. E.

JAPAN

F 1944

JUN 6 1922

8

Registry Number F 1944/205/23

FROM Private Secretary to Prime Minister (To Private Secretary)

No.

Dated June 2nd 1922.

Received June 6th 1922.

F.E.: Japan

Japanese relations with Korea.

Transmits letter addressed by Mr. Syngman Rhee to Mr. W.L. Williams, secretary to the League of Friends of Korea, with regard to Japanese oppression of Korea and observance of treaties between Korea and other powers. It is requested that a reply may be furnished for transmission to Sir Robert Newman, M.P., who communicated the document to the Prime Minister.

Last Paper.

F. 1819.

(*Print.*)

(*Minutes.*)

Mr. Syngman Rhee is the de Valera of Korea who runs a Korean Republic in particulars at Shanghai. His Republic conducts an active propaganda in America and at Paris. One line of propaganda is an appeal to the old treaties between the independent Kingdom of Korea and foreign powers, in accordance which a claim appears to the following effect:

If other Powers deal unjustly or oppressively with either Govt, the other will exert their good offices on being informed of the case.

When Japan was allowed to annex Korea in 1910, this, Mr. Rhee claims, was

(*How disposed of.*)

Aff. Prime Minister's Private Sec.
(from Private Sec.)
June 26.

(Action completed.)

Aff. J. 27/6/22

(Index.)

Next Paper.

F. 2034.

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even a branch of the International.

In England a Society came into existence about 2 years ago called the League of Friends of Korea, in which I believe Mr. Llewellyn Williams M.P. and Mr. F.A. Mackenzie, a journalist, are the leading spirits.

While the Koreans are undeserving of sympathy, and while their national aspirations are not unreasonable, yet it must be remembered that it was through their own mismanagement and corruption as much as through material weakness, that Korea came under the domination of a foreign power. Japanese rule has been a bitter medicine, but it will do Korea good in the long run.

Meanwhile, we good and even

~~48~~

be served by giving any encouragement whatever to the movement of Dr. Rhee and his party. The existence here of a League of Friends of Korea may give the Japanese an excuse for persecuting Sedition Indians.

Further, Dr. Rhee is in touch with Moscow and Sinn Fein

I think that Sir R. Newman might be informed that we are well acquainted with the views and activities of the Korean nationalists; that in 1919, we brought to the notice of the Japanese Govt. the disapproval with which the severity of their rule in Korea was regarded in this country; that since that time there has been a radical reform in the Japanese administration of Korea, and great improvements are indicated; that Korea felt under foreign domination brought her an

See ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ attached sheet A.

misgovernment

misgovernment and corruption; that
Dr. Rhee's so-called nationalist government at
Shanghai, which is believed to be in
sympathy with the Russian Bolsheviks,
is a disruptive rather than a progressive
influence; and that any encouragement
given to them by British people will
merely serve as an excuse for Japanese
to encourage anti-British movements
in India and elsewhere.

F. Ashton-Gwatkin
9/6/22

Private Secretary

I agree. We may
sympathise with the Koreans
but there is little doubt
that they are not fit for
self government at present.
A few years ago the Japanese
treated them with great
severity & were reported on
good authority to be
guilty of torturing Koreans,
but latterly the Japanese
Govt.

~~45~~

Government have made considerable efforts to improve their administration and with success. We certainly do not wish to foster a campaign against Japanese misrule in Korea - a dangerous ~~policy~~ proceeding at any time but particularly so for us now in view of recent happenings in India and Ireland.

~~A draft is attached.~~

Mr. Harmsworth should see. with drafts.

J. C. Newton

10.6.22.

Drafts are now attached & also proofs showing the action taken by the F.O. to improve the lot of the Koreans

J. C. Newton

16/6/22

3.

50

11

10 DOWNING STREET,

WHITEHALL, S.W.1.

2nd June, 1922.

F 1944

JUN 6 1922

Dear Private Secretary,

I shall be glad if you will let me have some reply I can send to Sir Robert Newman, M.P. who brought this document to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely,

G H Shakespeare

The Private Secretary,
Foreign Office.

Copy.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA. 51

Washington, D.C.

April 29th 1922.

Mr. W.Llew. Williams
Hon. Secretary League of Friends of Korea
195 Maida Vale, London.W.9.

Dear Sir,

I received your letter of the 13th inst, advising me of the activities of the Friends of Korea in the United Kingdom. We are very thankful and my people are very appreciative,seeing in your interest a glimmering hope in the realisation that the great body of Englishmen feel that English Treaties are made to be kept.

Koreans can never cease to believe that the Treaty of Friendship and Commerce between Great Britain and Korea, negotiated November 26th 1883 by Sir Harry Smith Parker, was made to be kept, and that the honor of England was pledged to Korea, that in case of oppression it would exert its good offices in Korea's behalf. Your efforts to make the Korean situation known to your people confirms our belief.

At the same time, if I may be permitted to say so, your activities are directed against the very seat of all of the unrest and discontent in the Far East. My statement may be discounted, because of my special interest, and yet what other conclusion can be reached?.

Japanese Asiatic aggression is the cause of the discontent. It commenced in Korea- grew out of

Korea/

Korea - is being pushed through Korea as a vantage point, and Korea is the horrible example of the results of that aggression when accomplished.

Without the possession of Korea this aggression cannot go on. If the menace is taken away, then the discontent and distrust of Japan, and of all those who associate with her will follow.

During last year I travelled extensively in the Far East and returned to Washington for the Confer-ence. While the Conference was in session we maintained a residence in the diplomatic quarter and kept open house. So that with all I had exceptional opportunities to study the temper, and to know the underlying fears and causes of unrest.

Everywhere it is Japan; the fear that she will trample upon rights, ignore treaties, and forcing submission where she can, tyrannically rule to her own aggrandizement, just as she did in Korea.

The greatest fear of all, causing the greatest discontent of all, and maybe resentment, is that the Powers may allow this to be done without protest, just as they did in Korea; for everywhere I am plied with the question: What have the Powers done for your country?. Did not Great Britain, France, Italy, Belgium the United States and other great powers solemnly covenant with your country to protect it, by protest, if nothing more, against oppression, to say nothing of attempted annihilation?. Have they done anything along that line for you?. No. Have they regarded their Treaty obligations with you?. No. Then they conclude

that/

that the world is against them; that treaties are but scraps of paper, and they stand up with grim determination to fight for their rights and their freedom, more than seven hundred million strong, half of the earth's population, possessing a good share, if not more than half of the world's resources.

Without Korea, Japan cannot be an aggressor on the Asiatic mainland. Let the Powers say to Japan: "We have treaties with Korea under which we are obligated to protest in case of oppression. Your diplomatic agents served with our diplomatic agents in Korea for at least twenty years, during which you recognised those treaties as existing. On at least eight different occasions you specifically recognised by treaty the independence and territorial integrity of Korea. In the identical treaty under which you were permitted to come into Korea, as her ally, with your military forces you guaranteed that independence and territorial integrity. You have never given up that military occupation. You have attempted to annihilate her, notwithstanding it was her help and her alliance with you that enabled you to win the Russian War. You have seized and attempted to absorb your own ally, and have violated your own treaty covenants, and your guarantee that Korea should be independent."

When the Powers do that the Far East will have confidence in treaties and in the nations which make them.

Your advocacy of the Korean cause, and your publicity of the facts about Korea and the reasons for her present plight, to my mind, will accrue not only

to/

to our benefit, but will make for world peace.

Whether Japanese control of Korea has resulted in material good from an economic standpoint, is not even collateral to the main question. Inherent rights of freedom and sovereignty have been violated so openly and notoriously that the charge stands proven. It is even conceded, and expediency is urged as a justification.

But expedient for whom?. For Japan or for Korea - for the burglar or for the victim?. Japan may be better off to the extent of the original railroad system, which she confiscated without compensation, including telephone and telegraph lines. The Oriental Development Company (Japanese) may be better off by the crown lands and other property it has obtained without payment. The Bank of Chosen (Japanese) may have profited by sequestering the Korean banks without return. The Japanese government may be better off because with the 19% tax against Korean property, it has built harbors and military roads to make Korea a better military base for Japan. But what about the poor Korean who owned all these things, with the right to control them, for his own use and his own benefit. All of these matters are so fundamental that it is hard to present them without seeming to be academic.

Koreans have been reduced to poverty, their schools taken from them, their historical records destroyed, their courts and their sovereignty usurped. Everything in them has been crushed, except their spirit; that remains, or as some will have it, has been reborn.

Whether/

Whether just reborn or long lived, it is there now. Can its force, backed by right and justice be resisted?

An example of that force occurred during the Conference. The Koreans in Korea prepared a petition for presentation to that body. It was circulated and signed by duly elected delegates, from every one of several hundred voting districts, and by the officers of 52 of the leading societies and guilds throughout the country. Japan, in spite of rigid censorship and surveillance, never knew that the petition had been circulated, until the day it was filed with the Secretary General of the Conference.

When seventeen million people can do a thing like that, can there be any question about their unity, and their ability to organise, or does anyone doubt but that eventually they will gain their freedom.?

Respectfully,

(Signed) Syngman Rhee

President.

[106793]

No. 57.

Earl Curzon to Mr. Alston.

(No. 129.)

Foreign Office, July 22, 1919.

Sir,

THIS afternoon the Japanese Ambassador called upon me again, at his request, to continue the conversation on Japanese policy towards China which we had begun a few days before.

He said that he had been thinking deeply over the remarks that I had made to him, and, being anxious not in any way to misunderstand or misrepresent what I had said in what he regarded as a most important interview, he desired, before communicating with his Government, which he was about to do, to be assured that he was not in error. He gathered from what I had said on the 18th July that I was not in personal agreement with the policy pursued by his country towards China; and, recalling some phrase which I had used as to an adverse verdict, he enquired whether I had meant to express this opinion as an official statement of the views of His Majesty's Government. If that were so, did it mean that the British Government had changed their views? He asked this because the various agreements between Japan and China had been communicated at each stage to the Foreign Office, and had, as far as he was aware, in no case been objected to by the latter.

I replied that I had no desire or intention to dissociate myself from the line which had hitherto been taken by the Foreign Office; but that what I had said to him, and to this I adhered, amounted to this: If, I said, in consequence of what had passed in Paris, public opinion in general, not only in China, but in England, in America, and in other countries, were invited to express its verdict on the recent policy of Japan towards China, or on the conclusions arrived at in Paris, I did not think that its answer would be altogether favourable to the side of Japan. Personally, I had felt myself so much in sympathy with this trend of opinion that I had ventured, not indeed to express an official opinion on behalf of the British Government, but to offer advice to the Japanese Government as to the best method by which they could extricate themselves from a position which was doing no good to them and might end by doing great harm to much larger interests.

His Excellency then proceeded to read to me the terms of the agreements concluded with China in the course of last year by Baron Goto on behalf of Japan. They stated the conditions relating to the withdrawal of Japanese military forces and police, and the regulation by the joint Powers of the railways in Shantung. He asked me whether I accepted the assurances contained therein as to the Japanese intention of evacuation.

I replied that I entirely accepted them, and was only anxious that they should be promptly carried out. It was for this reason that I had suggested that the Japanese themselves should volunteer a statement as to the period at which they thought that this could take place. I had no doubt, I said, of the sincerity of their intentions, but I thought it would be much easier, both for them and for the Chinese, if they named a date at which, given the prior satisfaction of reasonable conditions, evacuation could be effected.

The Ambassador asked me if my criticisms applied to the commercial and economic concessions which the Japanese desired to retain, or whether, so long as they carried out military evacuation, I would be satisfied with the other terms of the agreements, and allow them to stand.

I answered that I felt some difficulty in giving a reply to this question without

going seriatim into the various concessions of a commercial, financial, industrial, or administrative character, of which Japan claimed to be the heir. But, broadly speaking, I did hold the view that it was undesirable that Japan or any other Power should acquire such a preference in China. In my own experience, the possession of such concessions was found, as a rule, to carry with it, at any rate in Eastern countries, a command of the country's policy and resources quite as effective in its way as that which resulted from the presence of troops. This has been the whole of my argument about the internationalisation of Chinese railways.

His Excellency enquired whether, in my judgment, this would apply to the railway from Port Arthur; for the possession of which the Japanese had sacrificed so much treasure and blood, and the retention of which was a point of honour with his countrymen? He defended also the Japanese desire for the exclusion from any international agreement of Manchuria and Eastern Mongolia, arguing that the latter was physically, politically, and commercially, part of the adjacent area.

I said that I was quite aware that Japan claimed a peculiar interest in some, at any rate, of these territories, and that no general principle of the kind I had laid down could be driven in every case to its strictly logical conclusion; reservations would have to be made in one quarter, qualifications in another. I had indicated only the general principle to which I thought it would be well if all the Great Powers who were interested in China were to subscribe.

A good deal of my conversation with the Ambassador revolved round the point tc which he had called so much attention at our previous meeting: the *amour-propre* and national interest and honour of Japan.

He did not deny that many of the concessions which I had indicated were reasonable in themselves; but he asked whether it was possible, in view of the unscrupulous and successful Chinese propaganda, for Japan to make them? This would be to accept a public humiliation, which her people would never tolerate, and from which it would take long to recover.

I once again sought to argue that the policy I recommended was dictated by the highest considerations of expediency; and that, if Japan meant to carry out certain intentions, I could not understand why she should not state in public that she meant to do so, and even fix a time for the carrying out of her determination.

The Ambassador, who was shortly returning to Paris for the Peace Conference, announced his intention of telegraphing to his Government without delay, and of letting me know their reply to my suggestions.

Two other topics, to which I must now allude, were mentioned in the conversation which I had with the Ambassador on the 18th July.

The first of these related to a subject about which I had long meant to speak tc the Ambassador, and as to which I asked his permission to use very frank and unequivocal terms. This was the recent Japanese policy in Korea. I did not, I said, desire to go at length into the history of that country since it had been annexed by Japan. I knew from my own journeys in Korea that its people were backward and rather stupid, but I kenw also that they were simple and patriotic people. It seemed to me that they had been treated in a manner which was not justified by any behaviour on their part, and which it would be difficult for any one who was acquainted with even an outline of the facts not to condemn. In the ferment of new ideas created by the war, the Koreans had held meetings and demonstrations on behalf of their own independence; but there was no evidence that these had been seditious in character or accompanied by violence; on the contrary, the Koreans were the most peaceable of people. On the other hand, I had seen a mass of evidence testifying to the extreme ferocity with which the Japanese gendarmerie and military forces had dealt with these movements. Our consul-general in Seoul had officially reported that the acts of brutal savagery committed by the Japanese soldiery in terrorising the people could only be paralleled by the acts of the Germans in Belgium. Whole villages had been destroyed. People had been shut up in churches and burned alive, for the mere offence of marching and shouting in the streets. In the course of these scenes of violence, a British missionary, the Rev. Mr. Thomas, had been savagely attacked and severely injured by Japanese soldiers. The Japanese authorities had paid 500*l.* in compensation, but the incident was typical of the general spirit that prevailed. I told the Ambassador that I had lying before me pages of evidence describing the most barbarous and revolting atrocities, the publication of which would produce a sensation in the civilised world and would redound to the discredit of the Japanese Government. To such an extent had matters gone that the missionaries in Korea had seriously considered a suggestion to leave the country *en masse*, by way of public protest; and it had even been proposed

that a boycott of Korea by all foreigners should be arranged in order to mark the public sense of the situation. Nor was this a matter that affected the Japanese and the Koreans alone. The persecution of the Koreans had assumed an anti-Christian form, and deeply affected all foreign nations whose subjects were either resident or interested in that country. So undeniable were the facts of the case as I had put them before the Ambassador that they had been admitted in a public speech by Viscount Kato himself in Japan; nor indeed did I imagine for a moment that his Excellency would contest a word of what I had said.

The Ambassador not only admitted my allegations, but made no attempt at defence. He said that his Government were well aware of the unfortunate incidents that had taken place, and of their responsibility for them. They were now taking steps, by every means in their power, not only to prevent their recurrence, but to punish the offenders.

He went on to ask whether I had any suggestions to make.

I replied that it was with great diffidence that I offered any opinion upon the administration by Japan of one of her own dependencies; but it seemed to me a great mistake that the Japanese, in their administration of Korea, so entirely ignored the natives of the country they were endeavouring to rule. The share allowed to the Koreans in the administration of their own country was constantly diminishing, while the number of Japanese officials went up by leaps and bounds. The Japanese military element was always in the foreground, and ready at the slightest provocation to show its strength. Of the thirteen provincial Governors in Korea, only four were now Koreans. It was the same with the prefects. I knew of a case in which an efficient and popular Korean prefect had been removed to make room for a Japanese, who was reported to have been a second-class clerk in the water-works in the capital. Even the Korean headmen of wards and villages were now being replaced by Japanese. The Japanese language was being forced everywhere on the Koreans, and the Japanese officials made no effort to understand or speak the language of the country. So intent were the Japanese upon thrusting their own language on the Koreans that no University was allowed in Korea at which any foreign language could be taught. Further, on the excuse of developing the waste and uncultivated lands of Korea, Japanese farmers were being imported, and Korean farmers were being turned out of their farms in Southern Korea by thousands to make place for the Japanese newcomers. In the railway station of Seoul, large crowds of such dispossessed people could be seen any day, emigrating to Manchuria. These were facts, all of them resting on undisputed authority, which I ventured to place before the Ambassador.

I offered no comment upon them, except this: that, if they became known in this country, and if a debate were raised upon them in Parliament, I should not be able either to explain or to defend them.

Without wishing to dictate to his Excellency or his Government, I could not help suggesting that it would be well for them to adopt without delay a more liberal system: more liberal as regards freedom of speech, of public meeting, of the press, as regards education and public employment, and finally as regards self-government itself. We ourselves had our own difficulties, such as those in Ireland; but they arose from the fact that there were in Ireland two nations instead of one, and that, instead of having conceded too little, we had given too much. The problem in Korea was a very much simpler one, and could easily be solved by the exercise of humanity, moderation, and common sense.

The last topic of our conversation on the 18th July had been that of telegraphy in China.

There appeared, I had said, to be two agreements between Japan and China relating to this subject. The first was the Mitsui Wireless Agreement, concluded in February 1918, which was a contract for the erection by the Japanese of one high-power station in China. The British Government had not seen anything but a summarised version of this agreement, in which they were naturally interested, and, without having any reason to protest against its character or contents, they would be glad if they could be favoured with a copy of it.

The second agreement, with which I was more particularly concerned, was the Telegraph Loan Agreement, which had been signed by the Chinese Ministry of Communications and certain Japanese capitalists in the summer of 1918. Of this agreement also we had not been favoured with a copy, although we had received from Peking a memorandum containing a summary of its contents. If this document was correct, the concession included the construction of wireless stations by the Japanese concessionnaires at a number of places in different parts of China,

among them being Batang on the boundaries of the Chinese province of Szechuan and of Tibet. It was about this that I desired to speak.

Tibet was, as the Ambassador must know, a country with which we had close connections, arising from its contiguity with India, and with which we were now on very friendly terms. So far as I knew, Japan had no conceivable interest in the country. We could not regard with equanimity any arrangement by which wireless communication with Tibet rested exclusively in the hands of the Chinese Government, or of Japanese concessionnaires, or of the two in combination.

The Ambassador knew nothing of these matters, but promised to make enquiries and to speak to me again about them.

When he returned to-day, he brought with him copies in Japanese of the two agreements to which I had referred, and offered to send them to the Foreign Office for translation. He had not himself been able to find in the second of them—if indeed it was the one upon which I had animadverted—the particular reference to Batang of which I had spoken. In fact, he had not been aware that these agreements related to wireless telegraphy at all. But, upon my satisfying myself as to their contents, he would, if I desired him to do so, telegraph to his Government on the subject.

His Excellency concluded by inviting my attention to another and very different subject in which his Government were interested. In the later stages of the war, the import of cotton hosiery into this country from Japan had been limited to 50 per cent. of the import at an earlier date. This concession, however, had been withdrawn altogether since February 1919, when, owing to the difficulty of finding tonnage. total prohibition of import had been insisted upon by the British Government. But he had heard that, since then, we had made to France a concession with regard to the same class of goods of 50 per cent. of the import of 1913. He asked that, under the most-favoured-nation agreement subsisting between the two countries, this advantage should now be extended to Japan.

I am, &c.

CURZON OF KEDLESTON.

[115266]

No. 66.

Earl Curzon to Mr. Alston.

(No. 143.)

Foreign Office, August 11, 1919.

Sir,

THE Japanese Ambassador called upon me last Saturday (9th August) to continue our discussion of the Chinese policy of his Government: a discussion which had already extended over two prolonged interviews, previously reported by me.

He said that he wished to convey to me the thanks of his Government for the interest which I had taken in the matter, and for the advice which I had thought it my duty to give. He explained to me that his Government, impressed with the friendliness of my attitude, had done their best to meet the suggestions I had ventured to make, as he hoped was shown by the public declaration made by Viscount Uchida, the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, and reported in the "Times" and other newspapers on the 6th August.

Having a copy of this statement before me, I proceeded to comment upon it, and to invite from the Ambassador certain further explanations. I pointed out to him that, while it was true that the general tone of the declaration was friendly and conciliatory, I noted that there was nothing in it about fixing a term to the Japanese occupation of Shantung, for which I had so strongly pressed.

The Ambassador replied by repeating his previous arguments against the naming of a definite date without any certainty as to what China would do in the interim. He urged me to rely upon the assurance given by Baron Makino at an earlier date that, after the ratification of the Peace Treaty, evacuation by Japan would be undertaken as soon as possible.

The most gratifying clause in the declaration, I went on to say, was that in which the Japanese Government pledged themselves to the establishment in Tsingtao of a general foreign settlement instead of the exclusive Japanese settlement which, under the Agreement of 1915 with China, they were entitled to claim. I enquired whether this involved, as I understood it to do, the abandonment of the claim to appoint a Japanese of necessity as Commissioner of Customs; and I reminded Viscount Chinda that this was one of the definite suggestions that I had put before him at the first of our recent interviews.

He informed me with great candour that, while he remembered my having made the suggestion, he had forgotten to transmit it to his Government. He now promised to rectify the omission.

My point, I repeated, was this: The Head of the Chinese Maritime Customs must be at liberty to appoint as Commissioner of Customs at Tsingtao, not a Japanese as of right, but a member of any nationality he might choose. It might very well be that just as the predominant commercial influence of England or Germany or of any other country in any particular port or area had hitherto been found in practice to suggest the appointment of a Customs officer of that nationality, so the conditions at Tsingtao might in the future suggest the selection of a Japanese; but the appointment ought not to be earmarked in advance as necessarily falling to a member of the Japanese nation.

I then asked the Ambassador whether he could tell me more precisely what were the economic privileges granted to Germany in Shantung, of which Japan claimed to

be the heir; and what, therefore, was the degree of control which the admission of this claim would imply.

Upon this question—which I see is touched upon in your telegram No. 329 of the 8th August—the Ambassador was rather obscure in his reply. He thought the claim referred exclusively to railway concessions, with the mining rights in the areas accompanying them, and to concessions for cables, which, however, he believed had also been provided for by independent agreements. Whatever they were, he did not seem to regard the claim of Japan to insist upon the whole of these rights as anything but legitimate.

Next I alluded to the question of railways and to the contemplated joint working of the Kiaochow-Chinan-fu Railway. The Japanese declaration asserted that there would be no discrimination in treatment against the people of any nation. This, I said, did not give me much consolation, because I knew how easy it was in practice to institute a discrimination which had been disowned on paper. I therefore told the Ambassador frankly that, by this system of joint working of this railway, extending as it did from the sea-coast into the heart of the Province, and connected, as it would be, with other railways under almost exclusively Japanese influence provided for by other concessions and running in every direction towards the capital on the one hand and the Yang-tsze Valley on the other hand, Japan was, in my opinion, establishing a strangle-hold upon the province which would place it eventually and for all time under her control. For this reason I felt bound to repeat to his Excellency the protest which I had before made against this railway policy, and my strong wish that his Government would consider in a more favourable spirit the alternative, which I had already placed before him, of an internationalisation of the whole of the Chinese railways.

Turning to another question, I asked the Ambassador whether he had received any reply to the remarks I had made as to the behaviour of the Japanese in Korea. I confirmed what I had already said by reference to a further series of reports of the most shocking and authentic description, accompanied by photographs which it was impossible to look at without horror, and all of which tended to corroborate the lamentable impression that had been left upon me by the earlier evidence to which I had previously referred. I again told the Ambassador plainly that, if the accounts of these incidents appeared in British newspapers—and I was at a loss to understand why they had not already done so—it would be impossible for me or any other Minister to deny their accuracy, and equally impossible for any friend of Japan to condone their occurrence. Surely it was incumbent upon Japan, with any regard to the sentiments of her Allies or to her own position in the world, to institute an immediate examination into this terrible series of events, and, if they were proved to have occurred, to take steps to inflict condign punishment on the guilty.

Viscount Chinda told me that his Government had sent him no information on the point, and that therefore he could not do anything personally to confirm or to dispute what I had said.

I pressed him to obtain an early reply from his Government, and to communicate it to me as soon as possible.

This he promised to do.

I am, &c.
CURZON OF KEDLESTON.

[123925]

No. 12.

Earl Curzon to Mr. Alston.

(No. 156.)

Foreign Office, September 1, 1919.

Sir,

THE Japanese Ambassador, having asked to see me without delay, in order to present a special message from his Government, and having himself come from Paris for the purpose, called upon me at the Foreign Office this afternoon.

The message that he was instructed to give was to the following effect :—

That his Government accepted and confirmed the resolutions adopted at the meetings of the representatives of the Bankers' Groups of the United States, Great Britain, France, and Japan, at Paris on the 11th and 12th May of the present year, with regard to the organisation of an International Consortium for financial business in China, provided, however, that the acceptance and confirmation of the said resolutions should not be held, or construed to operate, to the prejudice of the special rights and interests possessed by Japan in Southern Manchuria and Eastern Inner Mongolia.

I listened with interest to the Ambassador while he developed at considerable length an argument concerning the political and economic claims of Japan with regard to those regions of the Chinese Empire. The argument was based partly upon geographical propinquity, partly upon the sacrifices endured by Japan in her two wars, and partly upon the necessity of setting up a barrier against the possibility of renewed aggression in Far Eastern Asia, either by a recovered Russia, or a recovered Germany.

Viscount Chinda contended that, just as Southern Manchuria was essential to the protection of the Japanese possessions or leases in Corea and the Liao-tung Peninsula, so Eastern Mongolia, as the hinterland of Southern Manchuria, with its rivers flowing into the same sea, and with identical economic resources, was also an essential part of the Japanese sphere. He said that there was no subject on which the sentiment in Japan, both of the public, and of the leading men of the State, was more united; that it was difficult for Japan to contemplate any modification of her claims in those quarters; that it was a matter in which the national spirit of his countrymen was concerned, and in which he appealed to the British Government, as an ally of Japan, to stand by her desires. He asserted that on many occasions the British Government had recognised the prior interest of Japan in both areas, and he was merely appealing to me to carry on the traditional policy of my Government.

I replied that, while I was well aware of and had myself recognised the Japanese claims with regard to Southern Manchuria, I could not for the moment recollect anything of the same kind having been said, and I certainly had never said it myself with regard to Eastern Mongolia, and I should have to look very carefully into the records of the Foreign Office in order to satisfy myself in this respect. Neither was I much impressed by the argument that China, still less Japan, required to be protected at the present stage from the aggression of any foreign Power in Asia, least of all Russia or Germany, and it seemed to me that the Japanese control over any portion of Mongolia was much more likely to fix the clutch of Japan upon China than it was to

protect her from hypothetical future dangers. However, before I gave any answer to the request of the Japanese Ambassador, I asked him to send me, either in writing or verbally, a clear definition of what his Government meant, firstly, by Southern Manchuria and, secondly, Eastern Inner Mongolia. When I had received this information I said that I should be in a better position to give him a reply.

I then took advantage of the Ambassador's presence, and also of his argument about the interests created by geographical propinquity, to bring before him in language of much seriousness the extraordinary position which had just been reported to me from Peking, with regard to the negotiations now in process between the Chinese Government and the British Minister, on the subject of the boundaries at Tibet. I narrated to his Excellency the history of these negotiations, springing from the negotiations which had taken place at Simla in 1914, and had all but culminated in an agreement then. I told him that they had lately been resumed at Peking; that the proposals had been made, not by the British or Indian, but by the Chinese Government themselves; that these suggestions had been accepted by us as the basis of a possible agreement; that the negotiations upon them had come almost to the final stage; that the British Minister, whose term of office was coming to an end, had been kept in China with a view to concluding them himself; but that suddenly, at the last moment, they had been abruptly cut short by the Chinese Foreign Minister, who had informed him that the negotiations must be regarded as cancelled, and, on being pressed by Sir John Jordan for an explanation of this extraordinary procedure, had given as an excuse that pressure had been brought to bear upon him by the Minister of a certain Power acting under instructions from his Government. The Power alluded to was evidently Japan. Sir John Jordan had at once forcibly protested against this unusual proceeding, and had telegraphed for instructions.

I ventured to ask the Ambassador what could be the explanation, if it were true, of this extraordinary incident? I thought myself that it might be true, because on many occasions reports had reached me of the assumption of an anti-British attitude by Mr. Obata, the Japanese Minister at Peking. Further, there was this corroboration of the story, that for months past, the most violent anti-English propaganda, misrepresenting and caricaturing the nature and scope of the Tibetan negotiations, had been conducted by the Japanese in China, both in the shape of newspaper articles, and of leaflets and pamphlets issued in Peking, Tien-tsin, Tsinan, Tsingtao, and other places in order to stir up Chinese opinion against us. Some of the pamphlets actually accused Great Britain of desiring to include in Tibet the provinces of Kansu, half of Szechuan, part of Yunnan, and Kweichow. This campaign of falsehood had been conducted not only in the Japanese controlled papers in China but also in Japan itself; and had gone so far that on the 16th June a joint statement had had to be issued in China by the Chinese Government and Sir John Jordan repudiating this travesty of their proceedings. The terms of this statement I read to the Japanese Ambassador. It seemed to me, I said, that the object of the party which conducted this propaganda was to cover up the proceedings of the Japanese with regard to Shantung with the object of diverting the attention of the Chinese people to another sphere of action, and of trying to represent to them, without a shadow of excuse, that the British were engaged in similar, or even in worse action, with regard to Tibet.

At this stage the Ambassador broke in with the remark that he did not believe for one moment that the Japanese Minister would do such a thing; that it was ridiculous to believe that Japan could have any object in preventing an agreement between China and Great Britain with Tibet, that it was no concern of theirs, and that the Chinese Government had doubtless invented this excuse in order to exculpate their own action. I accepted this explanation with much satisfaction, but said that I should be even better pleased if it were confirmed by a similar denial from his own Government. This his Excellency undertook to telegraph for without delay, and he did not seem to anticipate any difficulty in being able to give me reassuring information on the subject. He seemed, himself, to have some suspicions about the political prejudices and the character of Mr. Obata, but said that these doubts were not known to, or were not believed in, by his Government. I concluded this portion of our conversation by impressing upon the Ambassador that the circumstances which I had described, if they were true, were a strange commentary upon those interests arising out of our common relations as Allies upon which he had laid so much stress, and by telling him that I proposed at once to send for the Chinese Minister, and inform the latter of what had passed between us, in order that the true history of the remarkable incident at Peking might be discovered without delay, and the responsibility placed upon the right shoulders.

Before the Ambassador left I took the opportunity of congratulating him upon the nature of the Imperial rescript which had just been issued in Japan with regard to the future administration of Corea, which, although general in its terms, seemed to be inspired by the spirit both of equity and prudence. The Ambassador replied that he also had read the declaration with much satisfaction, and felt himself justified in attributing it in part to the strong representations, which, in sequel to our recent conversations, he had made to his Government. He himself would have liked to see a civilian Governor-General appointed in Corea straight away, but the Japanese Admiral, who had just been nominated, was to have as his deputy a thoroughly competent civilian, in whose hands the administration would really lie.

He was convinced that in his own country there was no sympathy with the predominance of the military party in Corea, and he looked forward to the dawn of a better day.

I am, &c.
CURZON OF KEDLESTON.

[144062]

No. 17.

Earl Curzon to Mr. Alston.

Foreign Office, October 20, 1919.

(No. 190.)

Sir,

THE Japanese Ambassador, in the course of his visit to me this afternoon, touched upon quite a number of topics, while I also had one or two to mention to him.

He was still very much concerned with the alleged interference of the Japanese Legation in Peking in the negotiations that had already begun between the British and the Chinese Governments with regard to the boundaries of Tibet. He admitted that there was an inexplicable discrepancy between the assurances given both to his Government and to Sir John Jordan in Peking by the Japanese Minister there and the statements that had more than once been repeated by the Chinese Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs. This he could not attempt to explain. What he was above all anxious to prove was that nothing unfair, disloyal, or inconsistent with the obligations of honour between Allies had either been contemplated or done by the Japanese Government; and he read to me the terms of a declaration which Mr. Obata, the Japanese Minister in Peking, had been instructed to make to the Chinese Government, so that his emphatic repudiation of the charges should be absolutely clear.

I said that I fully accepted the assurances of his Excellency; that there appeared to have been somewhere some misunderstanding, which neither of us could quite satisfactorily explain; and that, for my part, I regarded the incident as at an end.

The second point upon which Viscount Chinda desired to offer a word of explanation was the despatch by the Japanese Government of Japanese representatives to the impending International Labour Conference in Washington, before they had ratified the treaty under which that Conference was summoned. He hoped that before the party had arrived at their destination, the ratification would have taken place. The treaty, having been examined at great length by a Sub-Committee of the Privy Council in Tokyo, now only remained to be passed by the Privy Council itself. Upon their acceptance of it, it would be ratified by the Emperor in accordance with their advice, and he saw no reason why this step should not take place within a very few days from the present time.

Thirdly, the Ambassador enquired as to our intentions with regard to the appointment of a diplomatic representative in Berlin.

I said that it had originally been in contemplation to send an official with the rank of Chargé d'Affaires, who should remain there for a considerable time; but, upon consultation with our Allies in Europe, we had found a general opinion expressed that this interregnum should not be too long, and that, after a lapse of a few weeks, it might be desirable to proceed with the appointment of Ambassadors. In these circumstances we were disposed to consider the selection of someone who, proceeding to Berlin with the rank of Minister, might before long develop into an Ambassador.

To the Ambassador's question how long the interval might be expected to be, I replied that I proposed to consult the French Ambassador on the subject, and that I thought it very desirable that all the Great Powers should act more or less in unison in the matter. I promised Viscount Chinda accordingly that, when our plans had reached a further stage, I would let him know what we proposed to do.

In the fourth place, he asked who would be the representatives of the British Government at the first meeting of the Council of the League of Nations in Washington.

I told him that the matter had not yet been discussed or determined, but I could hardly doubt that Lord Robert Cecil would be invited to act on our behalf.

I then turned to the two subjects which I wished on my own account to bring before his Excellency.

The first of these was a telegram that we had received from Japan, to the effect that the cruel and barbarous floggings of Coreans at the hands of Japanese officials, about which I had twice previously complained to him with the incontestable evidence of both official reports and photographs, still continued in spite of the earnest assurances of the Japanese Government and of the recent appointment of a new Japanese Governor-General, which had been announced to me by Viscount Chinda himself as a guarantee for the cessation of these barbarities and a complete change of policy. I said that, though the new Governor-General had been appointed on the 13th August, and though the Imperial Rescript on Reforms in Corea had been published on the 19th August, cases of brutal flogging, the details of which I gave to the Ambassador, had occurred as recently as the 20th to the 26th September. Our representative in Tokyo had already brought the matter to the notice of the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, and I now mentioned it to the Ambassador because I was certain that he would be as shocked as myself that the anticipated improvement had not yet taken place. Parliament was about to assemble, and if some active member produced either the information or the photographs to which I had referred, it would be exceedingly difficult to make any acceptable defence. His Excellency promised to make immediate enquiries by telegraph.

Lastly, I brought before the Ambassador a case in which the King, acting upon the advice of the Japanese Embassy in the course of the past summer, had agreed to receive a presentation sword from the hands of a Mr. Ishikawa, the editor of a Japanese newspaper called the "Yorodzu Choho," on behalf of the readers of his newspaper, this gentleman having previously been received in audience by the King of Italy and the King of the Belgians, as well as by President Poincaré and President Wilson, to whom he had presented similar trophies. His Majesty had naturally acted upon the advice given to him by the Embassy, and, in accepting the sword, had handed to Mr. Ishikawa a complimentary reply. He had subsequently been very much concerned at hearing from authoritative quarters that the newspaper, the editor of which he had thus honoured, had made itself conspicuous during the war for its attacks, not only upon the English nation generally, but also for its frequent and scurrilous references to the King himself. I added that our information about the paper confirmed these unfavourable impressions. In these circumstances I felt it my duty to make a representation to the Ambassador, who, I felt sure, would be deeply annoyed at the perpetration of such a blunder.

Viscount Chinda said that he heard for the first time about the unsatisfactory record of the newspaper; that he had, perhaps rashly, assumed, from the receipt of the swords by the other Rulers referred to, that the donor was worthy of the compliment that had been paid to him; that he felt a great mistake had been made in not looking more closely into the matter before giving advice; and that he would at once institute the enquiries which should have taken place earlier in the day. He expressed the utmost concern that an incident should have occurred calculated to cause such legitimate offence; and he undertook to communicate at once with his Government, who he felt sure would share his deep regret.

I am, &c.
CURZON OF KEDLESTON.

49,338). Wt. 28,970B./104. 12,500. 2/22. Gp. 147. M. R. Co., Ltd.

23

Registry No. F.1944/205/23

F.O., 60

DOCKETED

Draft.

June 26, 1922.

Prime Minister's

Private Secretary.

Dear Private Secretary

I referred your note of June 2nd, with its enclosure to the competent department of the Foreign Office for their observations. They now return a draft of a reply which they consider might be sent to Sir R. Newman.

I think this reply will provide an adequate answer to Mr. Rhee's rhetorical propaganda.

Needless to say, it is a delicate matter to intervene between the Japanese Government and their subjects, the Koreans. Nevertheless, at the time of the Korean Independence riots in 1919, when it became known that the Japanese were treating the Koreans in a most inhumane manner, Lord Curzon spoke to the Japanese Ambassador in the strongest terms. The subsequent reforms in the administration of Korea, which have conferred real benefit on the Koreans, are to some extent due to these protests. So we cannot justly be accused of indifference to Korea's fate.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd) Ll. Ogar-Robarts

24

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

June 26th. 1922.

(F 1944/205/23)

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conferred/

The Private Secretary

to the Prime Minister.

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Yours sincerely
(Sd) G. Agar-Roberts.

49,338). Wt. 28,970B./104. 12,500. 2/22. Gp. 147. [illegible] Co., Ltd.

23 - 26

Registry No.

F.O.,

June , 1922.

Draft.

Sir R. Newman, Bt.

Dear Sir Robert Newman,

With reference to the letter of April 29th, 1922, addressed by Mr. Syngman Rhee to Mr. W. Llewellyn Williams, the Foreign Office are well acquainted with the views and activities of the Korean nationalists.

Korea fell under foreign domination through her own ~~misgovernment~~ political incapacity and corruption, and was finally annexed to Japan in 1910. This annexation was recognised by H.M. Government and by all other powers concerned.

In the spring of 1919 reports were received that the Japanese authorities were treating their Korean subjects with excessive severity; and urgent representations were on several occasions made by H.M. Government to the Japanese Government (see replies given in Parliament on April 27th and July 22nd, 1920, Hansard Vol. 128, No. 49 col.1007-8 and Vol. 132 No. 104 col. 644-5).

Since then, the Japanese Government have made considerable efforts to improve their administration in Korea and with success.

There is, however, an irreconcilable element among the Korean nationalists who have set up a pseudo-Government at Shanghai. The President of this self-styled Government is Mr. Rhee. He and his government are believed to...

to be in sympathetic communication with the Russian Bolsheviks, and they must be considered as a disruptive rather than a progressive influence.

While we may sympathise with the Koreans and their desire for independence. there is little doubt that they are not yet fit for self-government ~~at present~~. We certainly do not wish to foster a campaign against the Japanese government in Korea, ~~pursuing~~ any time but particularly - a dangerous ~~policy~~ at present, in view of recent events in India, Egypt and Ireland

Any encouragement given by British people to Mr. Rhee and his followers will merely serve as an excuse for Japanese to encourage anti-British movements in India and elsewhere.

? Amid [ ] - N yacht

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1922

F. E.

JAPAN. 64

F 2034
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27

Registry Number } F 2034/205/23

FROM

Sir C. Eliot, (Tokio).

No. 258.

Dated 10th May 1922.

Received 13th June 1922.

F.E. Japan.

Conditions in Korea.

Transmits copy of despatch No. 27 of 1st May from His Majesty's Consul General at Seoul enclosing a report on conditions in Korea during April.

Last Paper.

F1944

(Print.)

(Minutes.)

Noting of particulars interest.

F. Tobin-Corbett
19/6/22

9/6/22

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

B.J. 21/6/22

(Index.)

Next Paper.

F 2070.

272218.—Wt. 8485/160—22M.—6/20.—W. & S. Ltd.—(90).

65

COPY.

British Consulate-General,

SEOUL.

May 1, 1922.

No. 27.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith my Report of affairs in Corea during the month of April.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient,

humble Servant,

(signed) Arthur Hyde Lay.

His Excellency
The Right Honourable
Sir Charles W. E. Eliot, K.C.M.G., C.B.,
etc., etc., etc.,
T O K I O .

Affairs in Corea during April, 1922.

Visit of T.H. Prince and Princess Yi, Junior. His Highness Prince Yi, Junior, accompahied by the Princess and their infant son, arrived in Seoul on April 26th for a visit which is to last till May 9th. For the first time his return was made the occasion of public celebration and he received a great welcome at Fusan, at the four intermediate stations at which his special train stopped, and particularly at Seoul, where a triumphal arch had been erected at the station and where his arrival was greeted by immense crowds. The strictest police precautions were taken to guard Their Highnesses from disaffected persons, restaurants and lodging houses in Seoul frequented by suspects having been searched by the police and, according to the "Keijo Nippo", over sixty arrests having been made. Similar care was taken in the country to detain suspicious characters for the duration of the visit.

The programme for the first week of their stay consisted principally of family visits, but the afternoon of the 28th instant was occupied by a reception by Their Highnesses for Corean peers, Japanese and Corean civil and military officials of various ranks and the members of the Consular Body. Wives were included in the invitation.

Corean District Magistrates on a visit to Japan The Government-General authorities continue to send collected bands of Coreans to Japan and thirty Corean District Magistrates from the various Provinces, accompanied by a Japanese official interpreter, left on the 19th instant. Prior to their departure they assembled at the Government-General and received instructions regarding their

their trip from the Director of the Bureau of Internal Affairs.

Military aviation in Seoul and Chemulpo.

An aviation corps of fifty-five officers and men with four aeroplanes, in command of General Hattori, from Heijo, visited Seoul from April 9th to 15th and made trial flights over the city and at Chemulpo.

Corean malcontents in north.

Malcontents are again reported to have been active in North Heian Province. Early in April a party of them appeared at Hayangdong, Wiwon District, and, after shooting Mr. Kim Eung Chong and his son, escaped towards the Yalu. Another band of twenty carried off a man named Pak Yun Poh from Kosan Myon after demanding subscriptions to the "war" fund. About the same time some police from Shangsong District fell in with fourteen insurgents near Undong and shot two of them dead, and seized a pistol, bullets and seditious documents, the rest escaping owing to the darkness in the direction of the Yalu. The Wiju police also captured three malcontents suspected of being concerned in the murder of Cho Un Sang [redacted], who had refused their request for a considerable sum of money. A further case resulting in one arrest and the seizure of some small arms and ammunition occurred about the middle of the month and later on the shooting of an insurgent was reported in that neighbourhood.

The "Keijo Nippo" contained a mysterious paragraph on the 17th instant, which was partially deleted by the censor, to the effect that the police at Shingishu were in a great state of activity and had captured two Japanese on the night of the 13th, who were connected with a grave affair and had at the same time arrested others (evidently Coreans, whose names were represented by circles) and that the affair had ramifications in all parts of Corea. Nothing further has transpired

about

about the matter.

Condition of affairs on the north-eastern frontier.

The following is an extract from a confidential letter received from the Rev. F. G. Vesey, of the Canadian Presbyterian Mission, stationed at Kainei, whom I have asked to keep me posted concerning affairs in the north-east of the Peninsula.

Confidential. When I left Seoul last year I promised to write you occasionally of things here. I fear that my promise has been poorly fulfilled. Really there is hardly anything to report. Everything is quiet here, the military are not doing any display work, and both this side and the other, of the border, there seem to be no complications. I do note, however, that the Japanese are buying huge quantities of grain from Kanto. I hear on good authority that the Light Railway which runs to the border, Sambong, about 70 odd li from here, is to be continued (across the River Tumen) away up to the town of Kanjo (Yung Jung) this year. It is said that a Sino-Japanese agreement has been made, and the capital arranged. This will make the transport of cereals a much easier matter than heretofore. I know that the foreigners up there will be glad of the new means of travel.

The officials are very courteous and kind here to Mrs. Vesey and me. I think that this is also a matter of mutual respect. Unfortunately so many Koreans, and I fear some foreigners do not act and speak in a manner that would induce friendship, or courteous treatment. I have tried to do my best along these lines since coming here, I fear somewhat at the risk of being disliked by some Koreans, but with a sincere feeling that this was the right and proper duty of a Britisher in a foreign land.

Corean Vice-Consul at Antung on Corean settlers in Manchuria.

Mr. Kim, the Corean Vice-Consul at Antung (see enclosure in my despatch No. 3 of Jan. 14th last) who has returned to his post from an extended tour in Manchuria, has given out to the Japanese press a statement regarding the condition of Corean settlers in that province. He had seen scarcely any indication that Kirin, as was supposed, was a rendezvous of Corean malcontents. Though there was much anti-Japanese feeling among the Chinese in North Manchuria it did not extend to Coreans, who were generally favourably received. He was of opinion that the further development of Japanese interests in Manchuria could only be accomplished by Coreans, especially the well-to-do and the respectable, whereas the majority of the Corean settlers were of questionable character,

seeking

seeking wealth by contemptible means.

"Tong-a Ilpo" again in trouble.

The "Tong-a Ilpo" celebrated the second anniversary of publication by the issue of an eight page paper on April 1st, but as this was judged to contain matter prejudicial to the public peace, its sale/~~wase~~ and distribution prohibited.

Brutal Japanese and Corean policement

The "Seoul Press" of the 23rd instant reports that a Japanese policeman, named Koyeda, and a Corean policeman, named Kang, beat a Corean, named Yi, of Lakdomyon, Changyon, Whanghai (Kokai) Province, aged 62, who had failed to give them satisfactory answers to their enquiries about a certain man of the same village, so severely that he died and that they were awaiting trial at Haiju District Court.

On the 27th the same paper reported another case of proceedings commenced in Seoul District Court against jailers for cruelty, in which the first hearing of a murder charge against the Chief of Choonchun Branch of West Gate Prison, the chief and three other warders and the medical adviser, all Japanese, the victim being a Corean, who escaped from that prison on October 4th last year and whose brutal treatment on recapture resulted in his death.

It is a wholesome sign that such ~~public~~ brutalities are now openly referred to in the Japanese papers.

Lack of school accommodation.

Congestion in school accommodation is becoming more acute. A Corean gentleman, who has just put his son into a ~~public~~/Common school in Seoul tells me that only a few of the many applicants on the same occasion were admitted and that it was entirely by influence that his boy was successful in being allowed to enter. In his opinion the Government schools are preferable to Missionary Schools, because their pupils acquire a thorough

thorough knowledge of Japanese, whereas students of Missionary schools, though learning Japanese and English, know neither language perfectly. In order to extend the educational facilities in Seoul the authorities who are fully alive to the rapidly increasing demand are contemplating the adoption of a half time course in some school and the opening of night schools.

Dr. MacLaren, of the Australian Presbyterian Mission, informs me that in his district in the south the desire for education is very strong in even remote villages, and that in the absence of regular educational establishments the services of any men of education who can be found in the neighbourhood are enlisted for the private collective tuition of the children.

British Consulate-General,

SEOUL.

April 30, 1922.

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JUL 11 1922

34

Registry Number F 2325/205/23

FROM

Sir C. Eliot,
Tokio.

No. 322.

Dated 6th June 1922.

Received 11th July 1922.

F.E. Japan.

Conditions in Korea.

Transmits copy of despatch No. 34 of 1st June from His Majesty's Consul General at Seoul reporting on affairs in Corea during May.

Last Paper.

F: 2070.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

The ex-Emperor has given his first public entertainment since his abdication in 1910. A leader of the 1919 independence movement is dead; and the Editor of the "Seoul Press" thinks poorly of America.

American Dept. Min for pp. 4-5.

F. Ashton-Gwatkin
26/7/22

D — Nicolls
27/7/22

V. Wellesley
1/8/22

At the tail of H.S.
Mr. Yamagata ex officio makes a little visit!
Ulick
Aug 2

(Action completed.)	(Index.)
M.J. 3/8/22	

Next Paper.

F: 2399.

272218.—Wt. 8485/160—22M.—6/20.—W. & S. Ltd.—(90).

COPY.

British Consulate-General,

SEOUL.

35

June 1, 1922.

No. 34.

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose my Report on affairs in Corea during May.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient,

humble Servant,

(signed) Arthur Hyde Lay.

His Excellency

The Right Honourable

Sir Charles N. E. Eliot, K.C.M.G.,C.B.,

etc., etc., etc.,

T O K I O .

Death of Infant Prince Yi.

The visit of Their Highnesses Prince and Princess Yi, Junior, was sadly marred by the sudden death of their infant son on May 10th. Their departure was fixed for the 9th, but was at the last moment postponed owing to the illness of the child, who was reported in the local papers to be suffering from stomach trouble. Much sympathy was aroused even among Coreans indifferent to the Imperial visit. The funeral took place on May 17th, the ceremonial being as described in the enclosed cutting from the "Seoul Press" of May 18th.

Functions held in May.

During the early part of the month the Imperial visitors were mainly occupied with public functions. A luncheon party, comprising over one hundred and eighty guests, including the Governor-General and Baroness Saito, the Administrative Superintendent, Corean peers, high Japanese and Corean officials and their wives, and the senior members of the Consular Body and their wives, was given on May 3rd at the East Palace by Their Highnesses Prince and Princess Yi, Senior. This is the first occasion on which the ex-Emperor has received foreigners since his abdication. His Highness used to be stout, but has grown very thin, seems in feeble health, and looks, with his white beard, quite an old man in spite of the fact that he is under fifty. Prince and Princess Yi, Junior, received at the same time, stationed on the right, and on the left was Prince Yi Kang, the third brother, who is now restored to full favour with the Japanese. Among other functions were a Garden Party at the East Palace on May 5th for those not invited to the luncheon on the 3rd, including the junior members of the Consular Body and a few prominent non-official foreign residents, and a luncheon given by Baron and Baroness Saito on May 6th. Fortunately no

attempts

attempts were made to assault the Prince and Princess, 37
thanks to the untiring vigilance of the police. The Stone Palace, where they lived, was very carefully guarded. An old man did indeed try to present a petition asking for redress of personal grievances, and a needy young mendent essayed to ask for monetary assistance, but no harm was intended in either case. The Corean papers say that when the school children were leaving the grounds of the Stone Palace after making their procession through in sight of the Prince, there was some confusion and noise owing to a mistake as to their way of exit and that mounted police hurried to the scene thinking there was trouble. I believe that the Coreans were on the whole gratified, for the sake of old associations, with the splendid welcome arranged and the excellent manner in which all the proceedings were staged. His Highness made a very favourable impression personally by his manners and bearing.

Departure of Prince and Princess Yi, Junior.

Their Highnesses left Seoul quietly at 8.30 p.m. on May 18th. Owing to the mourning the arrangements were simple and there were no crowds in the streets on account of the heavy rain, though the route which they traversed was lined on either side with policemen a few yards apart. The Higher Japanese and Corean officials, Corean peers and the members of the Consular Body, who were notified of their departure, were admitted to the station to see them off.

Conference of Provincial Governors.

A conference of Provincial Governors was held in Seoul from May 2nd to 6th. His Excellency the Governor-General gave them directions covering all branches of administrative activity, among which those on well-advised guidance of foreign managed enterprises and relations with foreigners were as follows:-

> The good results or otherwise of the mines, religious or educational works, and hospitals and other relief enterprises under foreign management will produce no small effect on the administration of the people, so the provincial Governors should always keep themselves well-informed of

of their condition and put forth efforts to give them judicious guidance.

It is indeed pleasing to note that foreigners are gradually understanding the spirit of the governmental policy, and the relation between them and the authorities is growing more and more amicable. I regret, nevertheless, that at times some local officials deal with foreigners unsympathetically and so give rise to such feeling as to impede coming to a good understanding with them. It is presumable that these occurrences might be traced back to the unwarranted exercise of power by lower officials, but needless to say such a mode of treating foreigners is contrary to the policy of the Government-General, and I hope that the provincial Governors will take special care to lead the officials under them along the right way and make them understand fully the principle of the Government-General.

In the investigation of the cases referred to, attempts have sometimes been made to cover up the misdoing of the lower officials concerned or recourse has been had to sophistry, with the unseemly result that repeated communications have been necessary before the misplaced zeal of the offenders was disciplined and apology tendered the foreigners affected. The dignity of the Government-General is bound to suffer from these incidents, so it is desired that the provincial Governors will give close attention to the subject. (Seoul Press, May 7th).

The Administrative Superintendent, in an address at the Conference, touched on the lack of interest in the Corean question in the United States shown at the time of the Washington Conference, the educational and industrial, and other branches of Government work, the defrayment of Yen 27,280,000 more than last year on education, industry and communications, Government encouragement of popular saving in face of the thriftlessness of the people, and the necessity of avoiding official arrogance and cultivating close harmony between Governors and governed.

Disaffected Coreans from foreign countries.

Disaffected Coreans from foreign countries continue to find their way into Corea, and three of them with pistols in their possession were arrested in the Metropolitan Province at the beginning of May. Several other emissaries of the Provisional Government at Shanghai, who are believed to be hiding in the peninsula, are being sought for.

Alleged discovery of thrower ofbombs at Govt-General in Sept., 1921.

According to the local papers Kim Ik Sang, who made the attempt on the life of General Tanaka at Shanghai in March last has confessed that he was the man who threw the

bombs

bombs in the Government-General offices on September 12th, 1921, and that he entered the building disguised as an employé of the Electric Light Company. The "Keijo Nippo" states that proof has been found of his guilt, but adds that a number of other Coreans have already confessed without reason that they were the culprits.

Death of leader of Chundokyo.

Mr. Son Pyong Heui, Head of the Chundo-kyo, and one of the leaders in the independence movement of 1919, whose release from prison on bail was reported in my despatch No. 96 of November 4th, 1920, died at his home in Seoul on May 19th, having remained an invalid ever since he came out of jail. His relatives seem to wish the fact of his death to be widely known, for they telephoned the news and also sent a notice of his death to this Consulate-General.

Final withdrawal of Gendarmerie from Corea.

In the "Official Gazette" of May 6th revised Gendarmerie Regulations were published, by which the surveillance posts of the Corean Gendarmerie on the frontier were abolished. This entailed the dismissal of seventy-two gendarmes, and two hundred and thirty-nine probationary gendarmes. The replacement of gendarmes by policemen on the border is to be completed by the end of May.

Editor of "Seoul Press" on American immorality.

In the "Japan Advertiser" of May 12th appears the following account of a speech, as reported in the "Yorodzu" newspaper, delivered in Tokio by Mr. I. Yamagata, Editor of the "Seoul Press", who has just returned from a trip to Europe and America, in which after affirming that western civilization is worthless, he proceeds to make a violent attack upon the Americans, declaring that no country in the world is so destitute of freedom and morality as America.

> "I have taken a flying trip to the United States and "to Europe", Mr. Yamagata said, "and the impression I "received of those countries is exhausted in the word "'disappointment'.
>
> "Particularly America, which makes a profession of "grand propaganda, has nothing substantial within her to "speak of. A little study on the hidden side of western "civilization shows that the contents of it are truly "worthless. There is nothing for us to learn from it

"except

"except material civilization based on science and the
"spirit of social life based on publicity.
"There are more crimes committed in the United States
"than in any other country in the world, and the appear-
"ance of sensational information about numerous diabolical
"bank robberies in the newspapers is an every day matter.
"American men and women are so depraved of moral concep-
"tion that it is said there is no virgin in that country.
"There is no proper discipline between man and wife except
"sebsuality and hypocrisy.
"The church is nothing but a variety hall.
"There is no country in the world so destitute of
"freedom and morality as America. In a word, America is a
"land of despotic capitalists whose doctrine is the
"almighty dollar, and one can escape from any punishment
"if he only has money. It is my conviction that the
"American civilization is only material and we have
"nothing to learn from America spiritually."

These remarks have naturally aroused intense resentment among Americans in Corea with whom Mr. Yamagata has always professed to be friendly, and they are waiting to see whether any rebuke is going to be administered. Particularly do they resent his allusion to what he has heard regarding the entire absence of chastity among American women. If the report is true, it is extraordinary that the editor of a newspaper, which could not exist without official support, and the majority of whose readers are Americans, should so far forget himself as to be guilty of such a glaring indiscretion. The United States Consul-General is inclined to question the accuracy of the paragraph in question as it appeared in the "Yorodzu". But someone who knows Mr. Yamagata well tells me he believes that he did make the statement attributed to him, but that it was made with the idea that it would not be published. Anyhow, Mr. Yamagata is an old offender in the field of vituperation, and in the earlier part of the war the allied members of the Consular Body presented a joint protest to the Government-General regarding his pro-German and anti-British utterances (see my despatch No. 37 of June 13, 1916). The publication of such tirades, whether afterwards contradicted or not, goes far to undo the effect of official cordiality and the efforts of International Friendly Associations. I understand that the

Government-

~~No.~~ 76.

Government-General authorities have enquired at the "Seoul Press" whether anything is known locally of the matter, so they are evidently not disposed to let it pass by unnoticed.

British Consulate-General,

SEOUL.

May 31, 1922.

"Seoul Press", May 18th, 1922.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE PRINCE CHIN.

The funeral of the late Prince Chin who died a week ago after a few days' illness took place here yesterday.

At 7 a.m. the bereaved father and mother bade farewell to the remains of their little dear one at Toksu Palace and made the usual offering of incense, followed by messengers from Princes and Princesses of the Blood in Tokyo. A large and distinguished assembly gathered to sprinkle incense, prominent among whom were relatives of the Yi Family, representatives of Viscount Takahashi, Premier, and Viscount Makino, Household Minister, and Baron Saito and Dr. Midzuno in person.

IMPRESSIVE FUNERAL PROCESSION.

The preliminary funeral service for the late Prince Chin was conducted in Toksu Palace yesterday morning in the presence of relatives, the Governor-General, and other dignitaries at the time appointed, and on the stroke of ten, the cortége moved slowly out of the East Gate of the Palace to the tolling of a bell by the leader of the carriers of the hearse on its way to the last resting place of the infant Prince at Seiryori.

The streets traversed were lined with crowds that had come from far and near to pay their last respects to their departed Prince who, had he lived, might have become one of the greatest factors in cementing the bonds between Japanese and Koreans even more closely than at present. The procession was truly Korean having all the colour and solemnity that old Korean custom calls for. Ahead of it was a company of soldiers as advance guard; then came a number of men in navy-blue suits and wearing the peculiar cone-shaped hat so characteristic of the old Korean army, carrying red-blue, yellow-white, and black-yellow banners inscribed with ancient Chinese characters, followed by brightly decorated sedans (unoccupied) borne by nine men also in blue. Four "jay kwan" (assistants at the offering of sacrifice at the last resting place,) and four "pang sang si" (weirdly marked men, two in red and two in blue, on horse-backs, to drive away all evil spirits while the body was on its way to paradise) and after them the first hearse borne by forty-men, this, according to Korean custom, was only for use in case of emergency as liable to arise on a long journey because of the narrowness of the roads and other impediments to progress. Immediately following this hearse were hundreds of beautiful wreaths carried by men in blue and behind them the hearse containing the body of the dead prince, manned by seventy-two men, moved slowly between two lines of lantern bearers carrying red and yellow lanterns. Closely following the hearse were many high officials and other dignitaries and a company of soldiers formed the rearguard of the mournful procession.

12

1 2

F. E.

JAPAN. 80

43

F 2399.

JU 19 22

Registry Number F 2399/205/23.

FROM
Sir C. Eliot.
Tokio.
No. 356.

Dated 21st June 1922.
Received 19th July 1922.

F: Japan.

Annual report on Korea for 1921.

Transmits copy of despatch No.3 of 14th January from His Majesty's Consul General at Seoul enclosing copy of the annual report on political and commercial affairs in Korea for 1921.

Last Paper.

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F: 2327/2327/23/1921

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Air Ministry
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Labour.
Ministry of Transport.
24 August.

(Action completed.)
B.J. 28/8/22

(Index.)
C.M. 12/9.

Next Paper.

F: 2524.

(Minutes.)

There is a steady improvement in conditions in Korea

1. The Japanese have made great reforms in their administration.

2. The Koreans are more sensible in their attitude, and there is less open agitation.

3. The missionaries are taking a more impartial view of the Japanese position.

But abuses such as torture have not entirely disappeared see p. 7.

? Instruct Sir C. Eliot to thank Mr. Lay.

For distribution see within.

Copied for personal 27/7/22
now printed
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No. 8.—ARCHIVES.

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[July 19.]

JAPAN.

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 1.

[F 2399/205/23]

No. 1.

Sir C. Eliot to the Earl of Balfour.—(*Received July* 19.)

(No. 356.)

HIS Majesty's representative at Tokyo presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit herewith a copy of despatch No. 3, dated the 14th January, from His Majesty's consul-general at Seoul, transmitting the annual report on political and commercial affairs in Kórea for the year 1921.

Tokyo, June 21, 1922.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

Consul-General Lay to Sir C. Eliot.

(No. 3.)

Seoul, January 14, 1922.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, my annual report on political and commercial affairs in Korea for the year 1921.

I have, &c.

ARTHUR HYDE LAY.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

Annual Report on Political and Commercial Affairs in Korea for the Year 1921.

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Administration.

New Year's Address of Governor-General and Administrative Superintendent.

IN a New Year's Day message to the "Seoul Press" the Governor-General made a few remarks about the local situation.

2. His Excellency said that it was not until 1921 that the various cultural measures inaugurated by himself witnessed a steady development, and the goodwill and zeal of the authorities began to be generally understood. But even so, attempts were made, though fortunately without success, on the convocation of the Pacific Conference, to

incite the people to rash acts. The peninsula was at present happily enjoying a period of calm, and the people were steadily settling down and acquiring by degrees the habits of diligence and thought.

3. An article was also at the same time contributed by the Administrative Superintendent to the paper in question. Dr. Midzuno claimed that the welfare of the Koreans had been immensely advanced through the annexation, and pointed to the development of productive industry, the annual output of which is six times as great as it was in 1910, of transport facilities and education. He asserted that freedom of speech is recognised, but it is really only the freedom of such speech as is pleasing to the authorities.

4. That the hopeful utterances of the two heads of the Korean Administration are not without justification will be seen from this review of conditions in Korea in 1921.

Tours of Inspection by the Governor-General and Administrative Superintendent.

5. Baron Saito and Dr. Midzuno both showed their anxiety to get into close touch with administrative problems by making tours of inspection throughout Korea during the year and enquiring into conditions in different places. As a result of their observations they both came to the conclusion that there was much room for improvement in the manner in which local officials attended to their business and treated the people, and they addressed remonstrances to that effect to the directors of the Internal Departments in the provincial Governments assembled at Seoul in October. These orders should have a salutary effect in improving the relations between officials and people in the country.

Official Propaganda in the Provinces.

6. Lectures and cinematograph exhibitions were given in provincial cities, and pamphlets and postcards distributed, with a view to bringing home to the people various phases of the Liberal policy inaugurated by the present Governor-General. The work was undertaken by the Governors and secretaries of the provinces, assisted by officials in the Government-General.

Revision in the Organic Regulations of the Government-General.

7. In February the organic regulations of the Government-General were revised, the revision consisting almost entirely of minor administrative changes calculated to contribute towards the general efficiency of government. A body of administrative inspectors, to form a link between the capital and the provinces, has been established with the task of seeing that the official policy is properly understood and carried out. To these are added secretaries of Korean nationality, charged with the duty of studying local conditions and explaining the intentions of the Government and bringing grievances to the notice of the central authorities. The sphere for Korean official activity has been wisely enlarged. Previously, only four positions in the Higher Civil Service were open to Koreans, viz., judicial posts, provincial Governorships, provincial secretaryships and district magistracies. It is now, however, provided, in addition, that the secretaries in the Government-General, and assistant secretaries in provincial offices, may be selected from among civil officers, otherwise properly qualified, who are acquainted with the Korean language and customs.

Central Council.

8. The organic regulations for the Central Council of the Government-General, a body which was created in 1910, in order that the Governor-General might have at his disposal the advice of Koreans of ability and reputation, were altered on the 30th April, 1921. The number of members remains the same, but there are now five councillors and sixty-five advisers instead of fifteen councillors, twenty advisers and thirty-five deputy advisers. The right of voting, previously limited to councillors, has been extended to advisers. I am told confidentially by a member of the council that its meetings are chiefly taken up by addresses of instruction from Japanese officials, and that its advice is seldom or never asked for. The Central Council was convened on the 15th December for a session of three days under the chairmanship of the Administrative Superintendent. The principal questions that came up for discussion were marriage and divorce, and it was agreed that legislation was desirable in order to make the legal age for marriage the same as in Japan, full 17 years for men and full 15 years for women, and to define clearly the causes for which divorce could be obtained. One member suggested the advisability of holding meetings of the council at certain fixed dates, but the chairman ruled that regular sessions were unnecessary.

Koreans as Japanese Vice-Consuls.

9. In September were published regulations for the appointment of Koreans to certain consular posts. Vice-consuls and secretary-students in Japanese consulates in districts where there are a large number of Korean residents may be appointed from persons proficient in Korean, well versed in Korean affairs and possessing suitable learning and experience. Candidates for the former posts are to be selected by the Examining Committee for the Higher Civil Service, and for the latter by the Examining Committee for the Lower Civil Service. In consequence, Mr. Kim Woo Yung and Mr. Yang Chai Ha, who are both said to be very pro-Japanese, have been appointed vice-consuls to Antung and Mukden respectively.

Education.

10. The Koreans evince a keen interest in education, and thousands of applications for admission to Government and missionary schools had to be refused in 1921 owing to insufficiency of accommodation. The matter is engaging the attention of the Seoul prefectural authorities, who are increasing the public common schools in the capital and enlarging existing school buildings.

11. A Government-General ordinance was promulgated in April for the benefit of students desiring to enter technical schools, providing that the special examination required to be taken in Japan before they could apply to sit for the entrance examination by such of them as had not graduated from a middle school might be taken in Korea. Further, graduates from private schools recognised as being up to or beyond the standard of public middle schools are exempted from examination.

12. It is proposed to establish at least one higher common school in each province, there being provinces where none exist, and the plan for one common school for each three villages is expected to be completed next financial year.

13. New educational regulations for Korea are under consideration by the Privy Council in Tokyo, and will, it is said, be definitely settled immediately. These are reported in the local press as arranging for the education of Koreans under the same regulations as, and along with, Japanese, and for the establishment of a school for Seoul for giving preparatory university courses, with a view to the foundation of a university in three years' time.

Insubordination of Students.

14. There is a growing tendency to insubordination on the part of Korean students which affects all establishments, Government and private alike. The two most noteworthy cases in 1921 occurred in October. The entire body of students of the Seoul Agricultural School, eighty-three in number, absented themselves on the 20th, being dissatisfied with the rejection of their demand for the inclusion of English in the curriculum, and the extension of their practice grounds, and at the same time sixty-seven resident pupils left and returned to their homes. A strike of third-year students of the American Severance Union Medical College, discontented with certain arrangements, was promptly and firmly dealt with by the expulsion of more than half the class. Some of the missionaries do not regard the spirit of self-assertion as entirely a bad symptom, for they think that any sign of life is better than the indifference which once prevailed. In fact, they frequently condone this fault out of sympathy with the sufferings so many of their converts have undergone. The Rev. J. T. Newland, an American missionary of Kwangju, criticises this weakness in the December number of the "Korea Mission Field" in an article on the danger of stirring up only the surface emotions of the Koreans, and the need for influencing their whole life, in which, he says, "I have seen so much excusing of schoolboys and girls for insubordination on the plea of national woes, that I fear for a drifting on the part of the churches in this section."

15. Insubordination is, however, not limited to students and pervades the working classes also.

Encouragement of the Study of Korean among Japanese Officials.

16. The study of Korean is being encouraged among the lower Japanese officials in the peninsula, and monetary allowances, taking effect from March, of not more than 50 yen a month, are granted to officers of "hannin" rank, or under, serving in the Government-General, or in offices under its control, for proficiency in the Korean language. Monetary grants for knowledge of the vernacular were before this limited

to school-teachers and policemen. By bringing a large body of minor Japanese officials into personal touch with non-Japanese speaking Koreans, the scheme ought, if carefully carried out, to be of considerable benefit to the Administration.

Tariffs in Korea.

Postponement of Abolition of Import Duties on Goods from Japan.

17. It was officially announced in March that the customs duties on articles coming from Japan, which were to be abolished on the 1st April, 1921, would be continued in the meantime, the reason being that the Government-General could not afford to dispense with the revenue of some 7½ million yen accruing annually from this source. When compiling the budget for 1922–23, it was again decided that this tariff should remain in force during that period.

Tobacco Monopoly.

18. From 1921 the tobacco monopoly was introduced into Korea. A Government-General ordinance, with detailed regulations for carrying it out, was published on the 1st April and was to take effect from the 1st July, with the exception of the provisions for the annual Government decision regarding the classification of tobacco, the areas of cultivation and the price to be paid for leaf tobacco and for the Government taking over things in use in the manufacture of tobacco, which took immediate effect. Those who were in business as wholesale dealers in tobacco manufactured abroad from foreign materials are to be allowed, by way of Government grant for change of business, 11 per cent. of the price of their tobacco sold during the compensation period, *i.e.*, of the wholesale selling price. The organic regulations for the establishment of a monopoly bureau, with which the monopoly section hitherto in existence in the Government-General is incorporated, were gazetted at the same time. This bureau is entrusted with the Government monopolies of tobacco, salt, ginseng and opium, and has four stations, namely, at Seoul, Zenshu, Taiku and Heijo.

19. For the private importation of tobacco, indispensable from the point of view of health or habit, for their own use by foreign residents in general, regulations have been made fixing the following limits, customs duty being collected at the rate of 355 per cent. of the appraised value :—

Up to 8,000 foreign cigarettes per person per year.
Up to 3,000 foreign cigars per person per year.
Up to 12 lb. foreign cut tobacco per person per year.
Up to 12 lb. foreign powdered tobacco per person per year.
Up to 12 lb. foreign plug tobacco per person per year.

In the case of such tobacco being imported by travellers for their own use, the duty is the same and the limits are :—

Up to 300 foreign cigars per person.
Up to 800 foreign cigarettes per person.
Up to 2 lb. foreign cut tobacco per person.
Up to 2 lb. foreign powdered tobacco per person.
Up to 2 lb. foreign plug tobacco per person.

The tobacco allowed to pass through the customs duty free for smoking purposes by travellers is as follows :—

Up to 50 foreign cigars per person.
Up to 100 foreign cigarettes per person.
Up to ¼ lb. foreign cut tobacco per person.
Up to ¼ lb. foreign powdered tobacco per person.
Up to ¼ lb. foreign plug tobacco per person.

The amount allowed duty free to travellers passing through the frontier and alighting in the vicinity of the land frontier and travellers other than railway travellers is as follows :—

Up to 5 foreign cigars per person.
Up to 20 foreign cigarettes per person.
Up to ·04 lb. foreign cut tobacco per person.
Up to ·04 lb. foreign powdered tobacco per person.
Up to ·04 lb. foreign plug tobacco per person.

Regulations governing the exportation of tobacco from Korea, laying down the procedure to be followed by persons wishing to purchase and export tobacco, were issued on the 8th August, 1921.

Torture and Cruelty.

20. Fewer stories of torture and cruelty were told in 1921 than in the preceding year. Mr. Hugh Miller, agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society, is chairman of a committee appointed by the Federal Council of Protestant Missions in Korea to investigate and approach the authorities on matters on which missionaries are interested, and I have an arrangement with him that he should pass on any tales of inhumanity to me. I understand from him, however, that definite cases are now not often brought to notice, but that he gathers ill-treatment has not been eliminated from police procedure.

21. I heard of several such cases during the year My attention was called in February to a statement made by an American Methodist medical missionary that a Korean preacher had been beaten and tortured till he lost consciousness five times, and that when the doctor in question saw him a week after his release his face was noticed to be badly bruised and abrasions appeared on his fingers.

22. The general secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association, an American, informed me, in strict confidence, that the educational director of his establishment, Mr. Chai, was arrested early in 1921 and taken to Pyengyang, and that he himself went up there after the prisoner, and saw on his arms the marks of iron rings which had been fastened on him with ropes.

23. It was reported in the local papers in September that a suit had been brought in the court at Sunchon by Kim Yun Sok, of Posong district, against Mr. Imanaga, chief of Posong police station, O Fujita, in charge of Polkyo police station, Kim Hei Chang, policeman, and two Japanese and four Korean detectives, accusing them of murder, illegal arrest, duress, &c. The complaint was that Kim's younger brother had, though innocent, been arrested by the police some time ago on suspicion of stealing a revolver from the police station at Polkyo. Subsequently, his wife, eldest son, daughter-in-law and grandson were all taken into custody. They pleaded not guilty at the village station, and were subjected to duress amounting to torture for a period of days ranging from ten to sixty, till all five died. The case is admitted by the authorities to be pending, but they will give out no details. It seems a pity they do not publish the proceedings as a warning to wrongdoers in police offices. An American missionary, resident at Sunchon, who has enquired into the matter, asserts that the five persons were tortured, the father dying on the 3rd May.

24. The Rev. Dr. Gale was told by a Korean girl, who was let out of prison in the autumn of 1921, after two years' imprisonment for violent participation in the Independence Movement of 1919, that she underwent great hardship while serving the greater part of her sentence. Her sufferings chiefly consisted in inadequate and coarse food, insufficient clothing in the terrible cold of the Korean winter, overcrowding and being compelled to work at rough sewing, which hurt her fingers, and being confined with ordinary criminals. Three or four months before the expiration of her term of imprisonment she was properly fed and clothed and placed amongst more suitable surroundings, with the result that she appeared well and in good health on her release.

25. The Koreans are naturally reticent about any ill-treatment received from the police, as they fear that complaints made public by them will only react on their own heads and on those of their relatives.

26. I may say that, as a rule, cases which come to their knowledge are at once brought by the missionaries to the attention of the Government-General authorities, from whom they receive a courteous and attentive hearing.

Unrest in Korea.

27. The year 1921 was comparatively free from signs of unrest, and on the surface affairs seemed, on the whole, to have settled down quietly. The bulk of the Koreans have come to understand that outward exhibitions of hatred and contempt for their rulers only recoil on themselves and increase the severity of the administration, and the "Provisional Government" at Shanghai has issued instructions for the abandonment of open hostility and the concentration of the popular energies on education, with a view to raising the national standard. The Government-General authorities have declared

on more than one occasion, that order has been completely restored in the peninsula, but even a paper like the "Keijo Nippo" has had to admit that a long time will be necessary before the desired result can be obtained. Missionary observers inform me that, in spite of the outward calm, the bitter anti-Japanese feeling continues unabated. There is a good deal of political agitation in some of the northern parts of Korea, though the Commander-in-chief of the army in Chosen, who returned in June from a trip to the Korean–Manchurian frontier, reported that the inhabitants were enjoying perfect peace and order. The Korean leaders who assisted in bringing about the annexation are still to be seen under police protection in the streets of Seoul, their jinrikisha being escorted by three policemen, one on either side and one behind. The sub-agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society, who travelled extensively in the autumn in the north-eastern districts from Kanko northwards, found everything very quiet, and received less attention from the police than on any previous occasion. A Canadian missionary who resides at Kainei, on the border, tells me that quietness reigns there.

28. The incident which attracted most attention in Korea was the bomb outrage at the Government-General which occurred on the 12th September, though the damage done was of the slightest and the bombs thrown were quite small. The culprit, who has not yet been discovered, is supposed to have made his way through the building, past offices, to and from which numbers of persons are continually going and coming. The Governor-General was not in Seoul at the time, and the bombs were thrown in parts of the building quite apart from the room his Excellency occupies there. Other cases of bomb throwing were reported at intervals during the year under review.

29. A plot to "Bolshevise" Korea was alleged to have been unearthed in the metropolitan province in June, when twenty-five Koreans, accused of trying to convert the people to Bolshevism, were arrested.

30. A number of disturbances were reported from the north of Korea. An expeditionary force was despatched against Chinese troops invading the frontier in February. On the 20th August the commander of the 37th Cavalry Brigade at Hamheung was ordered to detail a sub-company of infantry to Ham Yongli, Poongsan and Kwangtaili, to assist the police in the suppression of Korean raiders from Manchuria. This was withdrawn on the 19th September. A band of thirty Koreans raided and destroyed the police station at Hamchongli, Kapsan, South Kankyo Province, on the 24th September, and about the same time the local branch of the Government lumber station at New Wiju was set on fire after being drenched with petroleum, and a Korean official was killed.

31. A British subject, in the employment of the Standard Oil Company of New York, at Seoul, who returned early in September from the districts which had been attacked by the malcontents, having sailed down the Yalu almost from its source to its mouth, staying on either bank of the river as occasion demanded, stated to me that there was great activity of police and military on the Korean side of the river, while the Chinese side was heavily guarded all along by outposts and detachments of Chinese troops. The ordinary traveller on business, he had learned from the police and others, was never interfered with by insurgents beyond being questioned as to his occupation and destination, but a policeman or gendarme was shot on sight.

Police Activity.

32. Many arrests were made of persons suspected of being political offenders throughout the year, and an incident such as the bomb outrage led to an access of police activity. I am told by a British missionary that, on the occasion of the Governor-General's visit to the north-east in spring, certain Christians, for the sake of precaution, were taken into custody for the duration of his stay and released after his Excellency's departure, without any charge being made against them. As the time of the Washington Conference drew near and when it met, further arrests were effected. It is the police interference with the liberty of the subject which, though there may be an element of necessity in it, spoils the chances which still remain, even after the experiences of the past two years, of making the Koreans a contented unit of the Japanese Empire, as the well-disposed are thereby rendered disloyal.

Effect of the Murder of Min Won Sik in Tokyo.

33. It was thought that the murder of Min Won Sik, president of the National Association in Tokyo—a pro-Japanese organisation—on the 16th February, 1921, the day after his petition that the franchise might be granted to Koreans had been presented to the Imperial Diet, might have disastrous effect upon the association. The society, however, is still working, though somewhat straitened financially, under a

new president, Mr. Kim Myeng Chun, and it occupies a position of importance with the Japanese. At the funeral service for the late Premier of Japan, held in Seoul on the 11th November, the president of the association took a prominent part. In connection with the assassination of the Premier, it was noticeable that, as soon as the deed was known in Seoul, the newspapers at once issued a "special," informing the public that the crime had been committed by a Korean.

Affairs in Kanto (Chientao).

34. British residents in Kanto are afraid to send me by post written accounts of doings there lest they should be opened and read by the Japanese authorities, but I have the opportunity from time to time of enquiring as to the state of affairs from Canadian missionaries coming up to Seoul. The reports I heard during the year were all to the effect that everything was quiet, and that the Chinese soldiers stationed all through the territory seemed to be preserving order in spite of rumours of threatened attacks by Chinese bandits.

35. The Japanese army despatched to Kanto during October 1920 was completely withdrawn in May 1921. The results of the operations, as published in the "Seoul Press" of the 25th February, were Japanese casualties, 9 killed, 26 wounded; Korean losses, 371 killed, 169 taken prisoners. Material captured by the Japanese army was: rifles, 661; machine-guns, 3; revolvers, 42; rounds of ammunition, 29,542; rounds of revolver ammunition, 188; bombs, 26. Buildings burnt by the army: barracks of rebels, 13; houses recognised as lairs of rebels, 282.

Tactlessness at Gendarmerie Manœuvres.

36. An example of utter tactlessness occurred in Seoul on the 6th December during gendarmerie manœuvres when a sham fight was organised against a large crowd of men supposed to represent a mob of Korean insurgents engaged in the stopping of tramcars and the destruction of property. It would seem unnecessary to rehearse such scenes in Korea after the events of the last two or three years, and the performance showed a gross disregard for the feelings of the Koreans. The "Keijo Nippo" published a strong comment on the subject, blaming the authorities responsible for what it termed disorderly conduct calculated to arouse bad feeling.

Vernacular Newspapers.

37. The Korean newspapers with any independence of thought were continually being suppressed during the year, and even Japanese papers published both in Korea and Japan came under the ban of the authorities. The "Tong-a-Ilpo," a constant critic of the Administration, the publication of which was suspended in 1920, was permitted to resume work in February 1921. Since then it has been subject to a succession of suppressed issues. The freedom of the press in Korea at present is on a par with the freedom of speech.

Attitude of Protestant and other Missionaries towards the Government.

38. I noticed a distinct change in 1921 in the attitude of Protestant missionaries towards the Government. In 1919 and early in 1920, the vast majority of them were distinctly hostile because of the ruthless suppression of the independence movement and the continuance of flogging. The abolition of flogging had a pacifying effect, though the police maltreatment of the people counteracted it to a great extent. Many of the younger missionaries are learning Japanese and so getting into touch with the ruling nation. No one hears no longer, in Seoul at any rate, the constant indiscriminate criticism of every act of the Japanese authorities, and foreigners on the whole are satisfied that Baron Saito and Dr. Midzuno have the interests of the people at heart. It is the actions of underlings particularly in the country to which criticisms are now directed. I know of one missionary formerly violently anti-Japanese who recently acknowledged that there was no present alternative to Japanese rule. This, of course, is the view of all impartial observers, and it is held even by the "Japan Chronicle," a relentless critic of the Japanese Administration in Korea. Bishop Welch, of the American Episcopal Church, and the Rev. Dr. Gale, of the American Presbyterian Mission, have been prominent in assisting in the improvement of relations with the Japanese.

39. The Governor-General, and the Administrative Superintendent and provincial official, and the Welcome Society of Seoul and Pyengyang have been doing their best to secure harmony by friendly intercourse with and courteous entertainment of resident missionaries and by instructions to provincial Governors.

40. The Catholic missionaries are in the good books of the authorities and have not had any friction, as has been the case with other mission bodies. The reason doubtless is, as Mgr. Biondi, the Papal delegate, told me when he was here, that they have no schools.

41. The Salvation Army and the English Church Mission have also all along preserved good relations with the Government, but both are comparatively small bodies.

Shaw Case.

42. A private and unofficial attempt on the part of the Japanese authorities to come to terms and effect an amicable settlement with Mr. Shaw through the intermediation of Dr. J. E. de Becker, of Yokohama, who proceeded to Antung with that object in August last, proved abortive, owing to Mr. Shaw's grasping demands and rancorous feelings. Dr. de Becker disclosed to me in the strictest confidence that the offer he was authorised to submit was a payment of 5,000*l.* or 40,000 yen as a solatium. In spite of his earnest advice, Mr. Shaw insisted upon 50,000 yen with an apology, or 100,000 yen without the apology. Though Dr. de Becker proposed to lay the counter-suggestion before the Japanese, he felt assured that they would consider it unreasonable, and that the offer would thereby be closed.

43. Mr. Shaw evidently does not realise that the time has gone by when he was an object of public notice, for on the 4th November he sent a postcard to the "Seoul Press" to the effect he had heard that there was a rumour in Seoul that he had left Antung, but that he had no intention whatever of leaving now. People in Seoul do not take the interest in Mr. Shaw that he seems to imagine. The "Seoul Press" did indeed, when referring on the 8th June to the Shaw libel case pending in the United States Court in Shanghai, state that it had heard that several Korean agitators, alleged to have been aided by Mr. Shaw in their seditious and murderous plots, had recently been found guilty and sentenced by the Seoul local court, and remarked that if this were true it was time that he who was out on bail be asked to return and stand his trial It went on to say that if he were a Japanese who had conspired against Great Britain, he would not be in his present position. The same paper also published a report in December that he had been decorated by the "Provisional Government."

Visit of His Highness Prince Yi, junior.

44. His Highness Prince Yi, junior, son of the deceased Emperor, and Lady Om paid a visit to Seoul at the end of January 1921 to attend the memorial services held on the second anniversary of his father's death. The interest of the people in the Yi family, however, terminated with the death of the old ex-Emperor, and the young prince is not regarded as in any way his successor in their affections, he being Japanese by education and the husband of a Japanese lady.

45. Prince Yi Kang, his elder half-brother, who since he was brought back from the north when on his way out of the country in 1920, the official story being that he had been kidnapped, had been in retirement, practically a prisoner, was in May appointed attaché to the army headquarters at Ryuzan, and reinstated in favour at a dinner given by the Commander-in-chief, and attended by the Governor-General. This prince has never been held in any respect by the Koreans.

Air Corps at Pyengyang.

46. On the 6th November an air battalion in command of Lieutenant-Colonel Masuda with about 130 officers and men arrrived from Tokorozawa and took up their quarters in the new buildings erected for them at Pyengyang (Heijo).

Strikes.

47. There were a number of strikes of labourers in 1921. The most serious occurred at Fusan at the end of September, when some 2,000 dockers left off work on the refusal of their demand for a 15 per cent. rise in wages on the increase in the price of rice and clothing. The police interfered and arrested the leaders and others, and,

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though transport was greatly obstructed for a time, the men gradually returned to work, and after three days the strike was over without any immediate concession being made on the part of the employers. About forty of them went on strike again at the end of the year.

Epidemics.

48. The year under review has been remarkably free from any serious outbreak of epidemic and infectious diseases. There has been a certain amount of cattle plague in some of the provinces, and an embargo was placed on the export of hoofs, hides, &c. There have been only the usual amount of diseases recurring seasonally and involving quarantine at ports for brief periods.

New Open Port.

49. The port of Yuki (Ungkei), in North Kankyo (Hamkyeng) Province, was added to the list of open ports on the 1st June, 1921.

Railway Developments.

New Railway Station at Nadaimon, Seoul.

50. On the 21st December the old station was finally closed to the public, preparatory to its destruction, and a temporary station opened in the vicinity. A larger and more imposing building is to be erected, to be finally completed in the financial year 1923–24. The former building had become inadequate to cope with the increase of passenger and other traffic and in general was unworthy of a city of the importance of Seoul. Other work in connection with the new main station is also proceeding rapidly, and several new goods sheds with lines laid alongside have already been completed, together with the necessary offices. The station is now only a terminus with regard to the Seoul–Genzan and Seoul–Chemulpo lines, as, by reconstruction of the line, trains can now pass direct through Seoul from Fusan to Wiju without returning on their tracks to Ryuzan (2 miles). The journey from Seoul to Antung has thereby been shortened by about half an hour.

Fusan–Shimonoseki Ferry Service.

51. Although the above service is operated by the Imperial Government Railways of Japan, any improvement must necessarily be to the advantage of the Korean lines. Three new and faster boats are to be put on the run during 1922 and 1923. These boats are now under construction at the Mitsubishi Dockyard, Kobe, of 2,600 tons gross, each having a speed of 19 knots, as compared with the present 10 to 11 knots, and it is understood that great attention is being paid to interior fittings and decorations. The first of these boats has been launched and will be ready for service in April 1922. The crossing will be shortened by two to three hours, and interruptions due to heavy weather will be materially lessened.

Passenger and Tourist Traffic.

52. This department of traffic has been on the increase. In 1916 there were 7,871 guests staying in the hotels owned by the South Manchurian Railway Company in Korea with a return of 110,473 yen. In 1920 there were 17,380 guests with a return of 493,215 yen. The greater proportion of the above may be reckoned as passenger traffic from beyond Korea. Considerable attention is being paid to tourist traffic. The rates of the Chosen Hotel at Seoul, it is understood, are to be reduced, and money has been expended on the relaying and improvement of a golf course in the neighbourhood. Trips to the Diamond Mountains (Genzen) are well advertised, and everything is done to make the stay of travellers a pleasant one in an out-of-the-way part of the country renowned for its natural scenery.

53. I may state here that Lord Northcliffe, who passed through Seoul in November *en route* for Peking, stated that the Fusan–Seoul section of the line over which he had travelled compared favourably with any lines he had known in Europe or the United States. Every facility was afforded him by the railway authorities, and he naturally saw things at their best, but his opinion as to the excellence of the line would be endorsed, in part at least, by most persons arriving here and by residents.

Hamkyong Line and North Kankyo Line.

54. Work on the railway line along the north-eastern coast is proceeding, attention being chiefly directed to the northern end called the north Kankyo line. On account

of the mountainous nature of the country, however, progress is slow, and it is not expected that through communications between Genzan and Kainei will be established for about three years. A small section of 6·7 miles was opened to traffic in November. The southern section is now to be extended to Taicho, a total distance of 23 miles. There will be eight tunnels and four stations built, the work to be completed by September 1923. The line is broad-gauge, and will gradually link up Seoul by rail with the north-western districts of Korea.

55. As a result of the visit made by Baron Saito to this part of the country mentioned above, his Excellency decided to incorporate in the budget for 1922–23 an item for the construction of a line from Pyong-Yang to Genzan. He warned those interested, however, that, much as he recognised the need of such a line, this was not the time for promoting a public loan, while the Central Government might be unwilling to sanction so heavy an expenditure. The railway advocated would help to serve the new open port of Ungkei. Business relations between the north of Korea and the Russian maritime provinces have been on the increase, and when political conditions are once again normal should become considerable.

Private Railways.

56. New construction has been severely curtailed owing to the lack of money due to the trade depression, and very little has been done in the year under review. A Bill was introduced into the Lower House of the Diet for the purpose of encouraging private ventures by guaranteeing an 8 per cent. dividend for a period of ten years, but nothing further has been heard as to this measure.

The Chosen Forest Railway Company.

57. The above company decided to lay a light, narrow-gauge railway, and the first stretch from Hamheung, in Hamkyong Province, to Whangcholyong, a distance of 40 miles, at a cost of 4,500,000 yen. The work is to be completed in three years. It had originally been intended to make this line broad-gauge, but for financial reasons the narrow-gauge was decided on at an estimated saving of about 40 per cent.

West Chosen Industrial Railway Company.

58. On the 16th November the above company opened to traffic the section of its line between Choivyong and Sinchon, in Whanghai Province. The section Choviwon (Seoul–New-Wiju line) and Choilyong was opened to traffic in December of 1920.

Steamship Lines.

59. In addition to the new ferry steamers between Fusan and Shimonoseki, already mentioned, the Okada Steamship Company of Sakai, Japan, are planning a service of small freighters between Korea and the nort-west coast of Japan viâ the Japan Sea. The service will start with two steamers of 600 to 500 tons burthen, each to be supplemented later either by larger or more numerous steamers. The company hope to get a subsidy from the Government.

Telegraphic Communications.

60. Owing to the growth of commercial relations between Korea and Manchuria, the number of telegraphic messages is on the increase, and now averages 250 a day. The Korean and Kwangtung Governments have decided to establish a through telegraphic line between Seoul and Antung at the cost of 50,000 yen, to be shared equally by the two Governments. The work will be started in 1922.

61. It is intended, if possible, to erect wireless telephone stations for communications between Fusan and Shimonoseki. The route is being surveyed, and it has not yet been decided whether Shimonoseki or Fukuoka shall be the Japan end of the line. The latter town lies geographically nearer to Korea.

The South Manchurian Railway Company and the Government-General of Korea.

62. The above company has been working at a loss for the last two years, the net loss being about 1,850,000 yen. The company took over the Government railway lines four years ago, *i.e.*, in 1917. The South Manchurian Railway Company agreed to pay the Government an annual amount of 6,000,000 yen, being 6 per cent. on the capitalised value of the line (1,000,000 yen), and profits in excess of the above were to be shared equally between the Government and the company. This contract was signed on the 30th July, 1917, and was modified in 1918 by a special arrangement whereby 6 per cent. on the total sum of investments in Korea should be paid to the

Government irrespective of profits. The agreement was to hold good for three years and expired accordingly in 1921, when the original terms of the contract again came automatically into force.

63. On the other hand, the financial position in the meantime had altered very much for the worse. The trade boom due to the war having vanished, receipts on transportation had fallen away in spite of several increases in freight and passenger rates. In March of last year there was a further marked set-back in railway receipts, and it was stated that 1,000 freight cars were lying idle on the Korean lines. The company had in possession 2,316 covered or uncovered freight cars, being an increase of 173 over the number in 1920, but there were not enough goods to keep these cars running. The railway receipts in February already showed a decrease of 100,000 yen as compared with the similar period of the year before. In order to minimise further inevitable losses, goods trains on the Seoul–New-Wiju line were discontinued, economies of all kinds were introduced and some of the personnel dismissed, and it was feared that further reductions of staff would become necessary.

64. The railway estimates for the fiscal year 1921–22 totalled 20,000,000 yen. Of this amount the following appropriations may be noted: 2,000,000 yen for the improvement of the Seoul–Fusan, Seoul–New-Wiju lines; 3,500,000 yen for building operations on the Hamkyong line; 4,500,000 yen for the purchase of rolling-stock, and 1,500,000 yen for the construction of the new station at Seoul.

65. In these circumstances there were several discussions between the company's official and the Government authorities here with regard to the return of the line to the latter. The Government would be glad to get control over the line, as it would help towards the unification of the railways of Korea on which depends the prosperous development of the country as a whole. On the other hand, the heavy deficit on working expenses, with prospects of further losses, proved a serious deterrent, as the finances of the Government are themselves none too flourishing, and it was difficult to see how they could meet the interest falling due on shares and investments of 6½ per cent. in 1921 and 7 per cent. in 1922 without resort to additional taxation, a step the authorities are most reluctant to take at the present juncture. Again, the South Manchurian Railway were also not anxious to lose control over the line, as it might prejudice the through running facilities between Korea, Manchuria and the leased territory of Kwangtung and beyond. Thus, for example, a proposal has already been made to run through trains between Fusan and Peking, though nothing so far has developed. Losses on the Korean section can be made good from profits in Manchuria and Kwangtung, and it may be noted that the company in Seoul received a subsidy of 1,000,000 yen from its Dairen office last year. The negotiations, therefore, for the return of the line fell through, and are not likely to be renewed for some time. As a concession, however, the South Manchurian Railway are to pay the Government 4 per cent. per annum for the capital invested from 1921, and 6 per cent. for capital invested before that year. In other respects the original contract has been revived for a further term of three years, when the position can again be reviewed.

Trade and Commerce.

66. Official statistics for 1921 not being available at the time of writing it is possible only to give the most general opinion as to the course of trade and commerce for the year, and some of the statements made may have to be revised subsequently in the light of later information.

67. The tables of trade and shipping issued by the Government-General give the following figures for exports and imports up to the end of October last:—

EXPORTS.

	1921.	1920.
	Yen.	Yen.
To foreign countries—		
Home products	16,181,289	21,348,243
Foreign products	248,611	1,353,655
Total	16,429,900	22,701,898
To Japan	138,966,064	132,113,041
Total exports	155,395,964	154,814,939

IMPORTS.

	1921.	1920.
	Yen.	Yen.
From foreign countries—		
Foreign products	61,448,637	94,406,998
Home products	849,913	337,869
Total	62,298,550	94,744,867
From Japan	120,520,890	116,331,755
Total imports	182,819,440	211,076,622
Total exports and imports ...	338,215,404	365,891,561
Excess of imports... ..	27,423,476	56,261,683

68. The above figures show a slight increase in exports and a large decrease in imports, with the result that the total of trade has decreased as compared with 1920, though not to any alarming extent. The most notable feature is the fact that both imports and exports between Korea and Japan have risen, thereby showing that the commercial relations between the two countries is becoming more important, while trade with countries outside Japan is falling away, particularly in imports. A very large amount of Osaka cotton goods have been imported. The result noted is presumably due to the imposition of the Japanese tariff in August 1920, and the tendency will be accelerated if and when the tariff between Japan and Korea is abolished.

69. Imports from Great Britain show an increase of 2,429,007 yen over 1920, while exports to Great Britain have decreased from 162,691 yen to 2,425 yen.

70. Imports from other parts of the British Empire show a decrease, with the exception of British India.

71. Shipping has also decreased as follows :—

	1921.	1920.
Number of steamers	358	710
Tonnage of steamers	303,219	550,486

Sailing-vessels show a proportionate decrease.

72. In spite of the world-wide trade depression since the sudden collapse in April 1920, the trade of Korea for 1921 has been less unfavourably affected than might have been expected and was at one time feared. This has been due in the first place to the fact that the boom in Korea did not reach the proportions of that in Japan owing to the backward state of commerce and industry, and as a consequence the swing of the pendulum has been the less violent, while a return to the normal appears to be approaching. The banks have pursued a consistently cautious policy, and purely speculative ventures such as were too frequent in the past years have been severely discountenanced. It is to be noted, however, that the Bank of Chosen and the Oriental Development Company have between them advanced 34,620,000 yen more than last year, principally for industrial undertakings. This would show at least a real faith in the future. Moreover, speculative stocks laid in during the boon, especially cotton, were nearly disposed of by the middle of 1921, and it is to be presumed that very little remains now for sale. Harvests also have been good ; cotton in 1920 and rice in 1921. Crops of other cereals, *e.g.*, beans, have likewise been good so far as can be ascertained. Finally, political conditions have been more favourable than in the immediately preceding years, and in this respect, at any rate, strong Government has borne good fruit.

73. At the beginning of 1921 there was much activity in Korean rice, due to the boycott of its sale by Japanese farmers and to the strong tone prevailing in time transactions in the Osaka market. Prices subsequently fell, but revived in the autumn as a result of the comparatively poor Japanese harvest. The price reached 37 yen per koku (4·96 bushels), but when the plentifulness of the Korean harvest became known, prices fell by 5 yen. The disposal of stocks held by the Imperial Japanese Government also influenced the price adversely.

74. Transactions in barley, wheat and beans have kept fairly brisk throughout the year, while quotations for cocoons recovered somewhat and their export took a favourable turn. Large shipments of beans have been noted from the port of Chemulpo.

75. Business at the end of the year, after a certain amount of briskness, gradually slackened off, partly owing to the restrictive action of the banks and to the raising of interest on loans by the Bank of Chosen, in November, to 2 rin per 100 yen per diem.

The months of December and January in any year are, however, always bad for trade owing to seasonal difficulties of transportation and the cumulative effect of national holidays and the custom of paying off all debts on the 1st January.

76. The general note for 1921 was slackness of trade coupled with regaining confidence, partly as a result of the disposal of surplus stocks (a large quantity of which were British goods) and partly to political causes at home and abroad.

77. Deposits in the Post Office Savings Banks throughout the country have increased in sum total and in the number of subscribers, but there is still considerable room for improvement. Unofficial figures published in the press in December show that subscribers number 1,478,378, of whom 361,807 were Japanese (mostly Government officials and employees and soldiers) and 1,110,511 Koreans. The average sum deposited per head was: Japanese, 32·80 yen; Koreans, 2·60 yen. The latter figure may seem a very negligible amount, but compared to the absolute neglect of savings by the population in earlier years, it shows a real advance in education and popular confidence.

Trade of Former Enemy Countries.

78. No activity has been noticed with regard to the above, though German nationals living in Korea have shown considerable energy. Enemy countries are, in common with all other foreigners, adversely affected by the Japanese tariff, while their one asset is cheapness. Exports to Germany are practically nil, but imports have more than doubled:—

	Yen.
1920	63,121
1921	149,241

The principal articles were dyes (aniline and alizarine)—

1920	1,645
1921	36,600

I am told that a certain amount of German sewing-machines and pianos have been imported, and a small quantity of Manchester piece-goods. One at least of the mining companies has ordered parts of machinery from Germany in preference to placing the order in Great Britain or America owing to the price.

79. Austria-Hungary appears for the first time since the war with imports valued at 1,713 yen. It is not known what goods are covered, but it is presumed to be paper used in cigarette-making and for morse code forms.

80. Imports from Turkey were valued at only 2,263 yen, as compared with 13,588 yen in 1920. The setting up of a tobacco monopoly in Korea (August 1921) is bound to have a bad effect on the imports of tobacco from foreign countries, of which Turkey is, of course, one.

81. No other former enemy countries are given, and the new countries set up by the Peace Conference are not tabulated.

Mining Industry.

82. The above industry has been very poor throughout the year, though there have been signs of a gradual revival. The cost of labour and materials has fallen to a certain extent, but not sufficiently so to make gold industry pay. The Government restrictions on the price and sale of gold are still upheld and having a bad effect, while the various petitions, recommendations and suggestions made by interested parties, Japanese and foreign, to the Government have so far produced no results.

83. At the end of June the Kuhara Mining Company of Japan finally ceased work at their copper mine at Kapsan, and there would appear to be no intention of resuming operations.

84. Industry other than mining has been very quiet, but there are at present no figures available to show what has been done in the year under review. The effect of trade depression on railway development has already been noted under the appropriate section. It is in the development of communications, railways, roads and harbours that the lack of financial assistance has been most felt in the general progress of the country, and will prove a more serious set-back in the long run than the present trade stagnation. Irrigation is another matter of vital importance to Korea, but here, too, money shortage has restricted or put a stop to plans already laid down.

COPY.

51

No. 5.

BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL.

SEOUL.

January 14th 1922.

Sir:-

I have the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, my Annual Reporton political and commercial affairs in Corea for the year 1921.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient,

humble servant,

Signed:- Arthur Hyde Lay.

His Excellency,

The Right Honourable,

Sir Charles Eliot. K.C.M.G., C.B.,

etc., etc., etc.,

H.B.M. Ambassador,

T O K Y O .

"GROUL PRESS."

January 5th, 1922.

IMPRESSIONS OF NEW YEAR DAY.

YEAR BRIGHT WITH PROSPECTS OF PEACE.

By Baron Saito, Governor-General of Chosen.

In welcoming my third New Year Day in Chosen I cannot help but feel moved as I reflect on the past and think of the future.

Last year H. I. H. the Crown Prince journeyed far across the seas and returned home in safety after seeing for himself the civilization of Europe. His Highness noted the gigantic efforts being put forth there to cure the wounds received by European countries during the late war, and I together with my seventy million brethren, congratulated the State upon the accomplishment of that epoch-making journey, realizing how largely the State must profit in after years by the first-hand knowledge thus gained by our future sovereign. I deeply regret that H. I. M. the Emperor has been ill for so long a time and that his ardently desired recovery is so slow. But the State is fortunate in having a Crown Prince of great sagacity as Regent at this trying time, and while praying for the speedy recovery of his Imperial Majesty we ought willingly to exert ourselves to promote the national prosperity in deference to the august wishes of the Prince Regent.

SURVEY OF WORLD SITUATION.

Let me now survey the general situation in the world. The European War shook to its very foundations the security of the popular mind in East and West alike and threatened the very existence of mankind. The evil consequences and miseries induced by the struggle were indeed great and all human thought seemed to be floundering in chaos during the years following it. Anxiety was manifest lest the progress of general culture might be for long disastrously retarded, and it is indeed a source of great happiness to see as time passes that the situation is gradually improving and the thought and action are slowly recovering the more even and tranquil flow of former days. The late war was an event unparalleled in history, and brought home to all humanity more vividly than war ever did before the heart-aching misery born of nations appealing to armed conflict for the settlement of their differences and aroused in the peoples of the world a most intense desire to obtain the realization of the ideal expressed in the avoidance of war and the achievement of permanent peace.

Numerous statesmen of the Powers participating in the Peace Conference at Paris racked their brains to devise means to attain this ideal but failed to voice any satisfactory plan. Last autumn the Washington Conference was called for the same purpose and amicable agreements have already been reached by the great Powers for armament limitation, and the solution of the Pacific problem. A quadruple convention has, moreover, been concluded by Japan, America, England, and France whereby each is pledged to act in harmony and co-operation with the others so that the foundation of world-wide peace may be solidified and the happiness of mankind enhanced. This marks a new epoch in the annals of the world, and peace seems to be dawning above the horizon of the troubled globe.

INTERNAL SITUATION OF THE EMPIRE.

How, then, stands the Empire internally? Knowing the situation as a whole I am conscious of a feeling of deep mortification within myself that the pendulum of thought and ideas in our beloved land, rudely disturbed as it has been by the confusion prevailing in the outside world, has not yet resumed its normal swing and that many unfortuuate incidents have been witnessed in the Empire. The assassination of the late Premier, Mr. Hara, seems to tell all too plainly that vicious thoughts have gained a lodgement in a section of the community, and in my opinion it is high time that the intelligent among us exerted th mselves to find an efficacious remedy for this corroding disease. Our sole consolation in this connection is that a new Premier was appointed without loss of time and that the policy of the State, both foreign and domestic, maintains an even course despite the shock it received through so great a calamity. In so far as the government of Chosen is concerned, it need scarcely be pointed out that no political change in the mother country will be allowed to affect it, but it may as well be noted that the present Premier is equally as understanding as regards Chosen as was his deceased predecessor and that he is so is greatly to the advantage of the peninsula.

CONDITIONS IN CHOSEN.

Now a few words about the situation in Chosen. On the assumption of my

present post I made it my resolve to pursue indefatigably and to the best of my ability the cultural policy decided upon in the hope of translating into fact the graciously expressed wish of his Imperial Majesty that all his people should share equally in the benefits conferred by a liberal and enlightened régime. At first, however, provisions aimed at the furtherance of the general wellbeing of the people were often confronted with obstacles owing to the disordered and chaotic current of thought in the world, imperfect understanding on the part of the masses of the real intention of the governors, and, above all, to the instigation and threats of Korean malcontents in Manchuria and other parts which prevented the popular mind from acquiring stability. It was only during the year just ended that the various cultural measures witnessed a steady development and that the sincere solicitude and enthusiasm of the authorities began to be generally understood. Even so, some persons yet attempted to inveigle the people into the committal of a rash and thoughtless action on the convocation of the Pacific Conference, but fortunately the people refused to be beguiled by those intriguers. Happy is it that the peninsula is at present enjoying a period of calm and that the people are steadily settling down and acquiring by degrees the habits of diligence and thrift. I intend this year to push forward with redoubled efforts educational, industrial, transport and all other measures calculated to promote the welfare of the people in general.

HOPEFUL NEW YEAR.

The year 1922, I believe, starts propitiously with bright prospects of peace and hope, and it is for us to bless its advent with expectant hearts. At the same time I hope that the entire nation will show itself wide awake to its new mission and ideals. We are joyful at perceiving the dawn of world peace, but in our joy we must not forget that this dawning is a rocket announcing the end of warfare by guns and swords and the beginning of a war of culture. Competition in military strategy and armament is at an end, but a new era of competition in commercial tactics and traffic in merchandise has dawned, and keen rivalry in science and culture will very soon be ushered in, and it behoves us all to be fully prepared for its coming.

EVIL COMPANIONS OF PEACE AND FREEDOM.

Peace and freedom are not infrequently marred by increase in licentiousness, luxury, and immorality. One must always bear in mind that behind the thirst for peace and freedom moral laxity and decay lie closely in wait. From time immemorial no people given over to unrestrained luxury and licentiousness has ever escaped downfall and ruin. It is my belief that national decay can only be averted by an unwavering resolve to build up true peace and liberty on the foundations of justice and noble ideals, or rather, on the foundations of moderation and order.

In Chosen it is desirable that the Japanese and Koreans should consolidate themselves into one body and create a world of peace and light for themselves in which they all may thrive and enjoy its blessings in common. I fervently hope that the Japanese and the Koreans in this country will bind themselves together with the love of brothers by blood and live in the intimacy of members of one and the same family, while putting forth united endeavours to conduce to the progress of civilization in response to the magnificent appeal by his Imperial Majesty.

Enclosure No. 2 in Mr. Lay's despatch No. 3 of January 14, 1922.

53 28

"SEOUL PRESS," January 7th, 1922.

WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR GLOWING WITH LIGHT AND HOPE.

BY DR. RENTARO MIDZUNO, ADMINISTRATIVE-SUPERINTENDENT OF CHOSEN.

With the rest of the nation I welcome with delight the year 1922 dawning with such fair promise and am impelled to give utterance to the thoughts stirring within me.

It is in all sincerity that I congratulate the nation and all peoples upon the dawn of a year destined to all appearance to bring to a close the time during which, as a consequence of the great European War, a remarkable yet not entirely welcome change was witnessed in the different spheres of human activity, physical and moral, and greeted at its birth by the first glimpse of genuine peace the world has seen for so many weary years, since the Washington Conference opened last November has so far succeeded in amicably solving questions concerning armament limitation, the Far East, and a quadruple agreement guaranteeing peace in the Pacific After the European War the world-wide race in armament building continued as acutely and precipitately as ever, and it seemed as if it would never come to an end. Did one country build a man-of-war, a second Power would add two to her fleet, a third would lay down a dreadnought and a fourth would order a super-dreadnought, and thus the vicious circle was kept revolving. Such a mad race in armament was making the peoples of the world pant breathlessly under the burden of ever-increasing military expenditures. Though armament is indispensable for the defence of one's own country, it is, at the same time, most necessary that the wellbeing of a nation should be promoted through the medium of education, industry, communications, and other cultural measures. Nay, more, the doing this is urgent from the viewpoint of the happiness of mankind. And it has been a matter of sincere regret for all nations that cultural provisions serving as the base of the true welfare of humanity have had to be either checked or restricted in favour of expensive military provisions. The solution of the armament limitation question at the Washington Conference spares all peoples on the globe from this stupendous failing and will be an untold boon to all humanity. Under such belief, I welcome the new settlement from the bottom of my heart. The late war affords a vivid proof of what misery and sacrifice modern hostilities entail, and how the foundation of human happiness is destroyed by them The furtherance of human happiness through absolute avoidance of war and the laying down of a solid base for perpetual peace must no longer be allowed to remain merely the ideal striven for by religious workers but every statesman in the world must unite to bring about its realization, notwithstanding history affords plenty of evidence that it is far easier to point to the ideal than to achieve it. Conferences aiming at the guarantee of peace were called time and again, but none attained the end desired, and everybody knows that their only outcome was the terrible war in Europe. The carnage it involved brought home to all peoples the vast calamity given birth to by war, with the result that the present conference was called under the mutual understanding of leading nations. Can it be doubted then that all peoples are rejoicing over the Quadruple Agreement that has established the foundation of peace? Nor do I question that all nations are glad that the money saved through retrenchment in armament will be turned to good account in enhancing the national prosperity by lessening the burden on the people or by expending the money raised in executing cultural provisions in general. When we think that such happy arrangements are to take effect immediately, is it not plain that this year will be a most memorable one, marking as it will a new epoch in the history of the world? Should Japan, America, England, and France exert themselves in good faith and act in concert in striving to reach the goal of human happiness, it is easily conceivable that the peace of the world will be insured and each individual nation will be enabled to devote its whole energies to the completion of its cultual provisions.

PRESENT SITUATION IN THE ORIENT.

Let me now take a survey of the present situation in the Orient. Everybody knows that the East has become almost an arena for the race by the world Powers and the birth-place of frequent disturbances. Our western neighbour, China, has suffered from internal confusion for some years and is now a cock-pit for the Powers. Russia, at one time possessed of great influence as one of the strongest Powers, has fallen into chaos as a result of the European war and her very existence is in jeopardy. It is indisputable that our Empire adjoining these countries, has been affected disadvantageously by their changed condition. Thus it is that, under these circumstances, it will be a supreme boon to the Orient that, through an adequate agreement between the Powers participant at the Washington Conference, the Far Eastern problem together with the Pacific question will find an amicable solution. For years the attentive eye of the world has been fixed upon the doings of Japan. She was considered chauvinistic and some even went the length of calling her a second

Germany. But misunderstanding of her was the root of all this. Japan indeed staked her existence on her wars with China and Russia, but these were inevitable and were waged solely to secure her own safety. Never did she essay an aggressive war; she took action simply for legitimate self-defence. It need hardly be said that China, then superior in strength, menaced Japan and that had we not risen to defend our beloved land against the southward advance of Russia, wedded as she was to the ambitious design of dominating Asia, Japan would have been doomed and the peace of the Orient in general would have been fatally broken. In such case who can tell what would have become of other Asiatic countries? When we think of this, we realize that Japan in acting as she did, rendered inestimable service in the cause of the peace of the world, and in that of Asia in particular. This hard fact unfortunately not only escaped recognition by other Powers but actually became a cause of misunderstanding and to such an extent that Japan incurred the suspicion of being chauvinistic and a second Germany. Now, however, the true intentions of the Empire are well understood by the Powers through the declarations made by our delegates at the Washington Conference. In regard to armament limitation, the Japanese delegation agreed in the main with the British and American delegates, while as regards the Far Eastern problem it is well known throughout the world that Japan took an attitude harmonious with that of England and the United States. Decision has thus been arrived at for limitation in armament, and questions respecting the Far East and the Pacific have incidentally been settled, with the result that we are at last assured of world peace and the foundations of human happiness are firmly established.

SITUATION IN CHOSEN.

As for Chosen, there is little room for doubt that the welfare of the Koreans has been immensely advanced through the annexation. The life and property of the people in this country are now secure, productive industry is being developed and education fostered. In brief, present conditions in the country show an improvement beyond comparison with those of olden days when the people were subjected to incessant exactions and extortion and the cardinal principle of the government was to take from them without giving anything in return. Such transport facilities as railways, roads and harbours are gradually being completed, and forestry, fishery, agriculture, mining and manufacturing are in a fair way of progress, while freedom of speech and religion is recognized and the foundations laid down for a local self-government system. That in each and every point the people of Chosen are drinking copiously from the blissful cup of an enlightened rule cannot be gainsaid even by such persons as never like to appear satisfied, or are against the government, no matter what it may be, or are captious critics because of some deep-seated bias. The yearly output of all productive industry in the peninsula is now worth 1,800 million *yen* as against 300 million *yen* at the time of the introduction of the Government General régime, and the network of railway measures over 1,300 miles in length. Of old Chosen had no roads worthy of the name, but nowadays important cities and towns are connected with one another by well-graded and excellent highways. Harbours, which were formerly left exactly as nature formed them, have seen a marked improvement through the application of human science and art. The land under cultivation is ever growing in acreage while the bald mountains for which Chosen was once notorious are rapidly becoming green with young trees. Koreans in the past had to be content with a very imperfect educational machinery but they are now provided with an up-to-date one approximating to perfection. All these facts must appeal to any open-minded and fair critic and such a one will readily admit that the Japanese régime in the peninsula for the past eleven years has in no small degree enhanced the happiness of the new subjects of the Empire.

BENEFICIENT EFFECT OF ARMAMENT LIMITATION ON CHOSEN.

I hasten, however, to note here that the Government authorities are in no mood to be vainglorious or to rest content with what they have so far achieved in this land. Far from that, they are yet endeavouring to lay down permanent plans for further improvement in all necessary matters. To assist them in such efforts, the Educational Investigation Committee appointed some time ago was required to formulate a fundamental principle for education and the Industrial Investigation Committee appointed later on was instructed to establish a root policy for productive industry. The authorities themselves are striving to enforce their measures under the guidance of these fundamental principles. The realization of their plans, however, has hitherto been impeded by lack of funds and in consequence the fruit of them is rather slow in appearing. I am, therefore, exceedingly happy to think that, should part of the money saved through the enforcement of the Washington agreement for armament limitation be earmarked for cultural enterprises in

Chosen, the Government-General will be able to turn it to the best account in bettering the administration of the country. From this standpoint it is no exaggeration to say that the results of the present Washington Conference will stimulate very forcibly the execution of cultural measures throughout the world. Recalcitrant elements of the Korean people have indeed been rash enough in the past to attempt such lawless actions as would jeopardize the wellbeing of their countrymen. Now, however, they must see clearly that the atmosphere prevailing at the Washington Conference is dead against their doings. When they meditate on the peace agreement arrived at by the leading nations of the world, I am sure that they will not be slow in repenting of their past misdeeds and will show themselves willing enough to bask in the warmth of Japan's rule. Such an attitude is natural and a step in the right direction. It is withal most necessary that the prosperity and happiness of the Korean people as a whole may be enhanced. In view of the great mission of the Empire in the Orient, I ardently hope that the Japanese and the Koreans alike will make strong and united endeavours to solidify the foundation of the State.

As already stated the year 1922 is a truly hopeful one. It is a year in which the dawning of peace is perceptible in the Orient, nay in the whole of the mother earth. In welcoming this New Year Day full of significance, I feel unbounded joy and at the same time am conscious of still greater responsibility resting upon us all. It is greatly to be desired that governors and governed will co-operate in sincere efforts for the successful discharge of the great and noble mission of the Empire of Japan.

(49,338). Wt. 28,970B./104. 12,500 2/22. Gp. 147. M. R. Co., Ltd.

Registry No. F2399/205/23.

55

F.O.,

DOCKETED.

3rd Aug. 1922.

Draft. ✓

Tokyo.

No 289.

Sir,

With ref. to Y.E's despatch No 356 of June 21st last, the Annual Report for Korea (1921), enclosed therein, has been read with interest.

2. I should be glad if Y.E would convey to Mr. Consul General Lay my appreciation of his carefully ~~constructed~~ compiled and informative report.

(In the absence of the EARL OF BALFOUR.
(illegible) VISCOUNT WELLESLEY.

B — W

2/8/22/

56

No. 289.
(F 2399/205/23).

FOREIGN OFFICE. S.W.1.
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I am, with great truth and respect,

Sir,

Your Excellency's obedient Servant,

(In the absence of the EARL OF BALFOUR.

(Signed) VICTOR WELLESLEY.

His Excellency
The Right Honourable
Sir C. Eliot, K.C.M.G., C.B.
etc., etc., etc.

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(Signed) VICTOR WELLESLEY.

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The Right Honourable
Sir C. Eliot, K.C.M.G., C.B.
etc., etc., etc.

13

F. E.

57

1922

JAPAN.

F 2524

AUG 2 1922

Registry Number } F 2524/205/23

FROM Sir C.Eliot (Tokio)

No. 386

Dated 6th. July 1922.

Received 2nd.August 1922.

F: Japan

Conditions in Korea.

Transmits copy of despatch No.42 of 1st.July from His Majesty's Consul General at Seoul enclosing copy of report on conditions in Korea during June.

Last Paper.

F: 2399

(Print.)

(Minutes.)

Extract.

p. 4. Paragraph on "Conditions of Affairs across N.E. border of Korea"

"Two Englishmen .... later on"

Should go to D.N.I. ✓

(How disposed of.)

(4) Dft.

No.

10 August.

p. 4. Paragraph on "Conditions for illegal traffic in morphine

"A Japanese smuggler ... with such men"

Should go to N.D. ✓

F. Admin. Commission

3/8/22

D. of Mercs

4/8/22

(Action completed.)

8/8. 10/8/22

(Index.).

15/8.

F. Wellesley

4/8/22

Next Paper.

F: 2900

272218.—Wt. 8485/160—22M.—6/20.—W. & S. Ltd.—(90).

COPY.

British Consulate-General,
SEOUL. 58
July 1, 1922.

No. 42.

Sir,

Report I have the honour to enclose my report on conditions in Corea in June.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient,

humble Servant,

(signed) Arthur Hyde Lay.

His Excellency
The Right Honourable
Sir Charles N. E. Eliot, K.C.M.G.,C.B.
etc., etc., etc.,
T O K I O .

Conditions in Corea during June, 1922.

Absence from Seoul of Gover-or-General and other chief officials of Govt.-General.

The Governor-General suddenly left for Tokio on June 2nd and it was officially given out that His Excellency had gone on private business, though it was generally understood that the visit was made in connection with the political crisis with the possibility that he would become Prime Minister. It is noteworthy that the Administrative Superintendent, the Head of the Police Bureau, the Chief of the Section of Foreign Affairs, the Prefect of Seoul and other of the higher officials were all in Tokio at the same time. Baron Saito returned to Seoul on June 19th.

Loss of Dr. Midzuno.

The appointment of Dr. Midzuno as Minister for Home Affairs will be a real loss to Corea. During the period of almost three years since he became Administrative Superintendent His Excellency has striven earnestly and sincerely for the good of the Coreans and for the progress of the country. The "Keijo Nippo" of June 13th says that the greater part of the reforms instituted during his term of office are his work, and, expressing great regret at his departure, hopes that his successor will be a man like him. With the foreign community both Dr. and Mrs. Midzuno have been most friendly and popular, and they will be very much missed.

Mr. Akaike, who, being Director of the Bureau of Police Affairs, played an important part in the administration of Corea and was responsible for the remarkable expansion of the police force, has also been transferred to Tokio as President of the Colonization Bureau.

New Administrative Superintendent and Director of Police Bureau.

Mr. C. Ariyoshi, the new Administrative Superintendent, (who is expected to reach his post on July 10th,) served in Corea for about a year from July, 1910, first as Secretary-General in the Residency-General, and on the establishment of the Government-General as Director of

General

General Affairs. He left in 1911 owing to ill-health and has since then been successively Governor of Miyazaki and Hyogo Prefectures. He is a Christian, which will commend him to the large missionary community. On the other hand there is a feeling among the Coreans that someone of higher standing than a Provincial Governor should have been chosen. They would have liked the appointment to fall to a Corean.

Mr. T. Maruyama, also a Christian, who came to Seoul about three years ago as right hand man to Mr. Akaike, has been appointed Director of the Police Bureau. His wife, who speaks English very well, is on intimate terms with the ladies of the foreign community.

Editor of the "Seoul Press" on America.

In the "Seoul Press" of June 1st appears a belated and feeble attempt at an explanation by Mr. I. Yamagata of the lecture reported in the "Yorodzu" and reproduced in the "Japan Advertiser", which was referred to in the report for May. It appears to have been his intention to keep silence and I expect that his now coming forward is the result of official pressure. He states that a very distorted version appeared in the Japanese paper, which was rather erroneously translated in the "Japan Advertiser", and that though he criticised rather severely certain things he observed in America which did not seem very creditable to him he did not say anything half so dreadful as that ascribed to him. He does not, however, indicate at all in what respect he was misreported, merely promising to prepare some articles on America at a future date, uncertain owing to his ill-health, which will make it clear that his lecture was neither malicious nor unfair, though, of course, if what he asserts is true the only was to prove his contention would be by the publication of the actual text of his remarks. He is at a loss to understand why his lecture should have displeased so many Americans in Japan and Corea, and yet he is aware

that

that all they presumably know about it is what they read in the "Japan Advertiser". American tourists, journalists, and other irresponsible persons have, he says, made worse attacks on Japan. He spoils any slight possible good his disclaimer could effect by his claim to the right to speak whatever he thinks of America. No one would deny the right of free criticism to Mr. Yamagata, were he unconnected with officialdom. It is only because he is the editor of the "Seoul Press", a semi-official paper, and therefore supposed to be a responsible person that his remarks command attention and that the Americans are angry with him for creating bad feeling. He came back to Seoul on June 13th, but nothing further has been heard from him on the subject.

The article by Mr. Yamagata, to which the above refers, is appended.

Corean malcontents.

A number of cases of pillage and outrages by Corean malcontents are reported from the north-west.

Mr. Kim Yang Sul, of Woon-mon Myon, Yong-kang District, Kokai Province, had over one hundred Yen extorted from him under threat of shooting. A party of malcontents appeared in the village of Wan-heung-dong, Tai-chyon, South Heian Province, and carried off about one hundred Yen, and another party set on fire the house of Pak In Su, Tai-ha-dong, North Heian Province, partially destroying it and more than two hundred bags of cereals were burnt. In another case, in a raid on Moon Muli, North Heian Province, five persons belonging to one family were killed and others were robbed of sums of money.

Ten malcontents attacked the village office and police station of Hap-chong-li, about five miles from Heisanjin, on the night of June 14th and set fire to the buildings. A Japanese policeman was killed and two Corean policemen were seriously injured. The attackers then fled carrying off

ammunition

ammunition taken from the police. A house occupied by officials of the Kangei Detached office of the Timber factory, North Heian Province, was burned down and the inmates narrowly escaped with their lives.

Three Coreans from Shanghai on a mission of Bolshevik propaganda have been arrested at New Wiju.

Condition of affairs across N.E. border of Corea.

Two Englishment, who have recently been at Lungching-tsun (Yong Jung), inform me that all is quiet across the north-east border of Corea. One of them has left the Engineering Department of the Chinese Customs to start a flour mill there. The other, a missionary, tells me that what the people beyond Hunchun are suffering from most is the requisition of food, etc. by Chinese soldiery and the importunities of swarms of beggars, who have found their way there from the famine infected districts of China.

But at the end of the month telegraphic reports of an attack by bandits on Toutaokou, Kanto, and the burning of the Japanese Branch Consulate were received. No detailed information as to what actually occurred is obtainable locally, but Canadian missionaries may be able to give me further accounts later on.

Conviction for illegal traffic in morphine.

A Japanese druggist in Seoul, named S. Kuriya, has had his professional licence cancelled and been order by the police to close his store because of continued illicit traffic in morphine. Some time ago he was sentenced by the Local Court to two years imprisonment for that offence and his case was under appeal to the higher Court. The reason for the present police action was the discovery that he had in March of this year secretly disposed of four lbs. of morphine to M. Tamiya at Mukden and of fifteen lbs. to M. Matsushiro at Heijo. The authorities are reported in the local papers to be determined to punish such offences severely and the "Seoul Press" in a comment meant for foreign

consumption

consumption remarks that no penalty short of bodily pain will have any effect with such men.

Strikes in Mission Schools

Strikes have taken place in American Mission Schools at Pyeng-yang (Heijo), namely at the Sungsil Middle School and the Sungdok School. On June 6th delegates from the students of the former institution presented a petition to the faculty making demands that steps should be taken to have the institution officially recognised as a Higher Common School, that visiting teachers be replaced by Government ones, for the extension of buildings including dormitory, and for the grant of self-rule to the allumni association. The delegates behaved in such an unruly manner that they were expelled. The outcome was the early closing of the school for the summer, and the Principal after consultation with the teachers issued a Circular to parents promising certain improvements and notifying them that the school would be reopened on September 1st and that students desiring to enter should send an apology between July 27th a and August 1st. The pupils of the Sungdok School also put forward similar demands and declared a general strike in spite of assurances that the faculty were sympathetic and would endeavour to meet the wishes expressed as circumstances permitted.

There was also a strike of the students in the higher course at the Corean Young Men's Christian Association, numbering seventy, on June 21st. They claimed that the teacheref physics, etc. was not competent and must be replaced, and on the suspension of the leaders for an indefinite period, the whole of them went on strike. Eventually the demand was acceded to and attendance was resumed, the suspended pupils being allowed to come back. Other school strikes are also reported.

In an article in "The Korea Mission Field" for June, entitled

entitled 'Diagnosing our Mission Schools', the Rev. R. C. Coen, an American missionary, states that in ten of the Boys' Schools of High School grade, representing almost every Protestant Mission and having 2,698 pupils, there have been in all but three cases one or more strikes during the past two years, ranging in results from the suspension of pupils to the burning down of a school building. Almost invariably the complaints made were of poor teachers and poor equipment. Mr. Coen admits the need of more funds, better teachers, and co-ordination of curricula. He believes that no two courses of study in Mission schools, even of the same Mission, are exactly alike, which he calls an unqualified mistake. He argues that tuition fees should be increased as much as possible, as the ridiculously low charges in some of the schools are partly responsible for the Corean opinion that Missionary Schools are inferior. I have heard other missionaries also express the opinion that to give the Coreans board or education for practically nothing is foolish and that only if they are made to pay reasonably for what they get will they appreciate their advantages. As regards the product of Missionary Schools, members of more than one foreign firm have told me that they never engage them as they have found them to be unsatisfactory and to have ideas above their station.

The spirit of insubordination is growing among the Coreans. They are impatient of authority and they are inclined to think they can do exactly as they please when foreigners are concerned.

Drought. Owing to lack of rain it has only been possible to transplant the rice on twenty per cent. of the rice-fields in southern Corea, where the greater part of the crop is produced. The price of rice is therefore rising and partial failure of the harvest is feared. Rain fell, however, at the

end

end of the month and relieved the situation to a great extent.

British Consulate-General,

SEOUL.

June 30, 1922.

"Seoul Press,"
June 1st, 1922.

MY AMERICAN IMPRESSIONS.

Several kind friends have called my attention to the very bitter feeling aroused in the minds of a great many American residents in Japan and Chosen by a version published in the *Yorodzu Choho* and later in the *Japan Advertiser* of a lecture I delivered one evening not long after my return from a foreign tour at the end of March at a gathering of about one hundred gentlemen belonging to a club in Tokyo. In this lecture, I gave my impressions of the foreign countries I visited, speaking more particularly of the things I observed in the United States of America. The morning following the evening in which I gave that lecture I was astonished to find in the columns of the *Yorodzu Choho* a very distorted version of it. Therein I was represented as having given expression to a scathing indictment of the American people, as if I were an American phobe of the worst type, seeing nothing admirable in the character, national life, and institutions of the American people. I scarcely took notice of it, however, believing that intelligent people would simply laugh over it, treating it as another instance of attempts at sensationalism by an enterprising newspaper. But when some days after a friend sent me a clipping from the *Japan Advertiser* containing a rather erroneous translation of the paragraph in the *Yorodzu* and suggested that I should publish at the first available opportunity a correct resumé of my lecture so as to prevent possible evocation of bad feelings in the minds of Americans reading it, I was somewhat disturbed in mind, for unreasonably to displease them, for among them I have some very good friends is the last thing I wish to do. Still, in the hope that when a few articles, which I intend to write and publish in these columns, as well as in some journals, Japanese and foreign, giving my American impressions, appear in print in the near future, they would remove all misunderstanding, I did not act at once on the wise suggestion. This I regret very much now, for from what some of my friends in Seoul have written me I conclude that there prevails great indignation among some American residents in Chosen at the reported speech of mine. It gives me much pain to think that, unintentionally though it was, I made them feel aggrieved even for a short time. By giving an explanation in time, I might have been able to prevent it.

I now hasten to say that, though I criticised rather severely certain things I observed in America which did not seem highly creditable to me, I did not say anything half so dreadful as that ascribed to me by the *Yorodzu*. I do not like the blind admiration of everything American usually given expression to by Japanese returning from America, particularly by those helped, financially or otherwise, by American mission boards. I do not think that their fulsome praise of America and their invariable advice to their countrymen to follow the lead of that country in nearly everything are conducive to the real benefit of both nations and to the promotion of better understanding between them. No American will assert that American civilization is perfect in every detail. While America possesses many good points, it cannot be denied that she has also her shortcomings and weaknesses. Some of these I pointed out in my lecture and warned my audience against importing them into our country. At the same time I eulogized many admirable points in American national character and life, urging my hearers to learn therefrom. In short my lecture was neither malicious attack nor unfair criticism of things American. All this I hope to make clear in my articles on America which I intend to write and publish before long. In passing I may add that since my return from abroad I have been in ill-health and have been compelled to stay in Tokyo without resuming my journalistic work. I am slowly recovering, but I cannot be quite sure how soon I shall be able to prepare the articles above referred to.

I am at a loss to understand why my lecture has displeased so many Americans in Japan and Chosen. They know better than anybody else how ruthlessly and persistently Japan and the Japanese have been attacked, abused, and slandered, in many cases without any ground, at the hands of tourists, journalists, and others from their own country. I know some of them have taken up cudgels in defence of the country in which they live, but I also know that many of them, when questioned by their Japanese friends, have told them not to mind such criticisms and slanders uttered by irresponsible persons. Worse than such Americans, who are quite indifferent to the pain caused to Japanese minds by the abusive attacks of people from their own country, there are even not a few who have purposely tried by their testimony, mostly the result of prejudice, ignorance, or misunderstanding, to aggravate the misrepresentation of Japan and her people. From the example of these people, I have hitherto thought that American people are tolerant of, and not over-sensitive to criticisms. I am now wondering whether I was mistaken in my estimate of American character. Is it that they are tolerant of criticism, however unjust, of countries other than their own? Are they of that sort of man, who, on being told of the agonizing pain a sick friend of his was suffering, coolly replied that *he* could bear it any length of time? Even were my lecture concerning America as bad as it was reported to be it was very much milder than some of the stones thrown by the American press concerning Japanese doings in Chosen during the independence agitation. I should think that I have as much right to speak whatever I think of America as Americans have to do the same of Japan.

I. YAMAGADA.

Tokyo, May 29, 1922.

"Seoul Press,"
June 1st, 1922.

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I. YAMAGADA.

Tokyo, May 29, 1922.

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JAPAN. ~~102~~

Conditions in Korea.

Transmits copy of despatch No.60 of 1st August from His Majesty's Consul-General at Seoul enclosing copy of a report on conditions in Korea during July.

Registry Number F 2900/205/23.

FROM

Sir C.Eliot,
Tokio.

No. 442.

Dated 9th Aug: 1922.

Received 11th Sep: 1922.

F : Japan.

Last Paper.

F:2524.

(*Minutes.*)

Copy to W.O.

F. Adam-Cowasjee
13/9/22

(*Print.*)

(*How disposed of.*)

(14) W.O. 14 Sept.

(Action completed.)

Rec'd. 14 Sept.

(Index.)

15/9.

Next Paper.

7.3200

285973—Wt. 4839/358—97 M.—5-21. W. & S. Ltd. (90.)

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Copy

British Consulate-General,

SEOUL.

August 1, 1922.

No. 60.

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose my monthly Report on affairs in Corea during July.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient,

humble Servant,

(signed) Arthur Hyde Lay

His Excellency
The Right Honourable
Sir Charles N. E. Eliot, K.C.M.G., C.B.,
etc., etc., etc.,
TOKIO.

believes in Mr. Ley's ab. as of August 1, 1920.

Affairs in [illegible]

New Administrative Superintendent.

Mr. S. Arigami, the new Administrative Superintendent, arrived in Seoul on the evening of July 11th and was met at the station by a large number of officials and others. No policemen were to be seen in the station itself, but the streets through which he passed were lined with them. In an interview published in the "Seoul Press" of July 13th, forwarded herewith, His Excellency stated that the very first object that must be aimed at was conciliation and the growth of mutual love between Japanese and Coreans, and in this respect he would try to lead others by personal example. The idea that Government officials were to be feared must be banished and he gave it to be understood that that was the reason why he had dispensed with police guards.

Chief of Section of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. T. Matsunaga, Chief of the Section of Foreign Affairs in the Government-General, is retiring from service in Corea. In the meantime he has gone on leave, and his successor will not, I believe, be appointed for a month or two. He is one of the officials of highest rank in Corea and prior to his appointment to his present post was first Governor of South Kelan Province and then Governor of Keiki Province, and it is not unlikely that he was disappointed at having a Provincial Governor from Japan preferred before him for the post of Administrative Superintendent. It is thought that he will obtain either an official post in Japan or enter a business house in Yokohama. He speaks French well and English passably, and was popular with the foreign community.

Son of Prince Yi Kang to Tokio.

The young Prince Yi Woo, recently a fourth year pupil of a primary school in Seoul, about twelve years old left for Tokio on July 5th accompanied by a Secretary of the Prince Yi Household, in order to enter the Peers'

Affairs in Corea during July, 1922.

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School. He is a son of Prince Yi Kang, brother of Prince Yi ~~Wu~~ Senior, his mother having been a dancing girl, and has been adopted as heir of the late Prince Yi Chun, grandson of the Taiwon-kun and nephew of the deceased ex-Emperor, at one time Minister to Japan, who was for a time a refugee after the murder of the Queen.

School strikes.

The students of the large school belonging to the American Methodist Episcopal Mission in Seoul, the Paichai Hakdang, went on strike early in July. On the morning of the 6th they handed in a petition without previous warning demanding (1) better teachers, (2) the dismissal of two teachers, (3) change of the teacher in charge of the curriculum, and (4) better chemical and physical equipment. The school authorities promised that these demands would be taken into due consideration, but all the students numbering some six hundred from the fourth year downward declared a strike until they got what they asked for. The fifth year students numbering seventy-five did not join in the movement. On the 7th twenty-eight of the leaders were expelled from the school and the parents and guardians of the others were notified that unless they attended by 8 a.m. on July 10th they would render themselves liable to expulsion. On Saturday and Monday, the 8th and 10th, groups of students picketed the various roads leading to the school to keep away any would-be strikebreakers.

Only ninety-six boys attended school on the Monday morning. It was decided to expel all those who had not reported or who did not send notice of attempting to report. Exception was to be made in the case of students who could prove by July 31st that they had taken no part in the strike.

Seoul Commercial School, a private institution, was also the scene of a strike, forty-seven out of sixty-three of the second year students absenting themselves on July 13th because the Corean teacher of English had been superseded by a Japanese. On the following day the school was declared closed.

The Principals of eight private schools, including Mission establishments, have combined with a view to stopping further

strikes

strikes, having at a meeting held in Seoul on July 8th come to the following agreement:-

1. That students should not be allowed to join the federation of Corean students which is considered to have a bad influence.

2. That no students expelled from any of the schools concerned for inciting a strike should be admitted to any of the other schools for one year.

3. That the authorities of the schools concerned should jointly endeavour to correct misbehaviour of their students outside school hours.

It may be noted that according to official figures at the the end of June last there were 655 private schools in Corea, of which 275 were Mission Schools.

Talking with two of the senior missionaries in Seoul over the lawlessness of the youths they gave it as their opinion that firmness was the only proper means of dealing with such occurrences. One of them told me that fifteen years ago when he was in charge of the Paichai School he had suppressed a strike by declining to yield, while the other said that not long ago in his own college he had done the same. The pupils of the Paichai School only pay some thirty Yen a year and, if the fees were raised considerably, those who went for study would remain and the others would not enter at all.

As mentioned in the report for June, the missionaries are alive to the necessity of reform in the curriculum of their schools. At the annual meeting of the members of the American Northern Presbyterian Mission held in Seoul at the end of June a resolution was passed to the effect that the standard be made the same as that of the Japanese Middle Schools.

Feud in Corean Labour Association.

Another incident illustrative of Corean impatience of direction is reported in the Chosen Rodo Kyosai-Kwai (Corean Labour Mutual Aid Association), Seoul, a society formed a few years ago, which has now twenty thousand members. On the afternoon

noon of July 11th an official, named Ko, in a state of anger becuase a motion introduced by him had been rejected, attacked and injured two other officials with a short sword and then took down the sign board, drenched it with kerosene and set fire to it. The fire brigade and police were summoned and the man was placed under arrest. It is a great failing of the Coreans that they are so averse to leadership and that each one wishes to have his own way all the time.

Visit of Japanese Labour leader.

Mr. Suzuki, President of the Japan Labour Association, has been on a visit to Corea to investigate the relations between land owners and tenants, the condition of Corean labourers, numbers of whom have recently gone to Japan and consitute a serious problem there, and the question of Chinese labour. A branch of the Japan Labour Association was formed during his stay. At a meeting on July 16th the chief subject of discussion was the unbearable competition of Chinese masons, many of the workmen present, chiefly masons, having come from Japan in connection with the building of the new Government-General offices. Mr. Suzuki is said to be endeavouring to devise means for keeping Chinese labour out of Corea and Corean labour out of Japan.

Withdrawal of garrisons from towns in interior.

The Japanese garrisons are to be withdrawn from towns in the interior at a date not yet announced owing to military retrenchment. Moreover, the police force is now considered sufficient to deal with any emergency that may arise. Delegates from the towns affected have visited Seoul in an unsuccessful effort to obtain from the Commander-in-Chief and other prominent men a reversal of this decision. They claim that the result will be bad industrially as peace and order will be threatened, but what they are really concerned about is the loss of military custom.

Meeting of Chambers of Commerce.

At a meeting of representatives of the Chambers of Commerce in Corea held at Seoul in July a resolution was passed in favour of petitioning the Government for the abolition of the

the import duties on goods coming from Japan. A committee was appointed to approach the Government-General and Administrative Superintendent on the subject and one of its members is quoted by the "Keijo Nippo" as saying that Mr. Ariyoshi was of opinion that while the state of the Government finances would make it very difficult to remove the duties during the financial year 1923-24, he was resolved that they should be abolished from the following financial year.

Rice crop.

The rain which began at the end of June continued in July and allowed the rice to be transplanted so that all danger of a failure of the crop was removed.

Communication with Seoul interrupted owing to floods.

July indeed was very wet and towards the end of the month great floods suspended the railway service between Seoul and the rest of Corea excepting the north. From July 29th to 31st no mail from Japan was received. Great damage was done to telephone and telegraph wires resulting in the practical interruption of the service for a time.

British Consulate-General,

SEOUL.

July 31, 1922.

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"Seoul Press," July 13th, 1922.

Ideal of Administration of Chosen.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. ARIYOSHI.

Mr. Ariyoshi, the new Administrative Superintendent, arrived in town on Tuesday evening. At Namdaimon Station, he was warmly welcomed by a large gathering of prominent men and large crowds of people lined the streets through which he passed to the Chosen Hotel. An interesting feature on the occasion was the conspicuous absence of policemen on guard. So, too, when he arrived at Fusan on Monday evening. It is understood that on both occasions the police refrained from showing themselves in any force in deference to Mr. Ariyoshi's desire. As a matter of fact, prior to his departure from Tokyo, on being reminded of the danger from assassins, Mr. Ariyoshi laughingly remarked that he was now past fifty, and having lived so long he did not greatly mind sacrificing his too life on the altar of duty.

In an interview with press representatives Mr. Ariyoshi said that he had no definite plan for the administration of Chosen. He was in Chosen for some time thirteen years ago, but conditions having changed very much since then he must first study them and also learn the opinions of those in a position to speak with authority. He was, however, convinced that all would agree with him in thinking that the very first object that must be aimed at was the conciliation of the Koreans and the growth of mutual love between the two peoples. This was easy to speak of, but extremely difficult of realization. He thought that not Government officials only but private persons too must always bear this object in mind and strive to attain it. Every Japanese speaking and acting in this spirit towards his Korean neighbours means by so much the more the furtherance of the ideal. In this respect he would try to lead others by personal example. When all the Japanese and Koreans animated by this spirit and strove to gain the trust and love of each other, it would not be long before they became inseparably united.

Continuing, Mr. Ariyoshi said that the idea that Government officials were persons to be feared, seemingly held by a great many Koreans, must be banished from their minds. Whether it was with this idea in mind that he caused the abolition of Police guards on the occasion of his arrival or departure, he left to the imagination of his interviewers. But, as he had already declared on more than one occasion, he was determined to try to solve all questions on the basis of the principle that both Japanese and Koreans must prosper or fall together. In other words, he believed that the administration of Chosen had as its sole object the common benefit of Japan and Chosen. Both Japanese and Koreans must benefit therefrom, and the welfare of the latter must especially be considered as they incomparably preponderated in the peninsula. He desired to be thoroughly understood by Koreans in his ideas concerning them, and intended to meet as many representative men of theirs as possible in order to hear their opinions, and derive assistance therefrom in carrying on his work in Chosen.